

Khomeini sues Yugoslav newspaper

BELGRADE (R) — Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is suing a Yugoslav newspaper which criticised his call for the killing of Slobodan Milosevic, author of "The Satanic Verses," the editor said Friday. Slobodan Milosevic, editor-in-chief of the official daily Yugoslav newspaper Borba, told Reuters a suit had been filed in Khomeini's name against him. Borba journalist Vesna Roganovic, and prominent Yugoslav novelist Slobodan Milosevic, Roganovic conducted an interview with Khomeini, published in Borba in February, in which he condemned the threat against Khomeini, Marinkovic said. No threats had been made against Borba, and Marinkovic said it was Khomeini's right to seek satisfaction through the suit filed in a Belgrade court. "I believe our courts are democratic and impartial enough to make the right decision," he said. Borba was the only Yugoslav newspaper to publish excerpts from "The Satanic Verses." It started publication in February during a visit by Iranian President Ali Khomeini but stopped after the first instalment at the urging of the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry. It resumed after Khomeini left the country.

Jordan Times

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جورديان تايمز يومية مستقلة سياسية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

U.S. opposes PLO role in U.N.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department, responding Friday to a call by a group of senators, registered its opposition to any effort to grant the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) membership status in the United Nations. "In our view, the self-declared Palestinian state, which we do not recognize, does not meet the generally accepted international law criteria for statehood," a department statement said. However, the PLO permanent observer at the United Nations in New York, Zuhdi Labib Terzi, said there was no effort to obtain full membership in the international body. The 38 senators had urged Secretary of State James Baker Thursday to oppose U.N. recognition of the PLO as a member state, an upgrading of its current observer status. "Any successful move by the U.N. or related agencies to recognize the 'State of Palestine' would force us to seriously consider a range of punitive action, including withholding U.S. financial participation from those agencies," the lawmakers said in a letter. Republican Sen. Robert W. Kasten and those who joined him said the PLO was engaged in "a public relations play to make headlines" rather than "confidence-building measures to make progress."

King attends prayers

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein attended Friday prayers at the Prince Hassan mosque in Shmeisani and listened to a sermon delivered by Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary General Ahmad Helayel.

Helayel stressed the importance of Arab and Islamic solidarity, whose foundations have been laid by Sharia and said Jordan, led by King Hussein, always worked towards achieving solidarity. The 1987 Amman summit contributed to overcoming divisions and led to the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which was the outcome of efforts of the King and other ACC leaders, he said.



Attending the prayers were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid bin Shaker, King Hussein's special advisor, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd bin Zaid, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and senior officials.

Qasem, Bessaieh review Mideast developments

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and Algerian Foreign Minister Bousalem Bessaieh held talks here Friday on the latest developments in the Middle East and issues of mutual interest, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

Bessaieh arrived here earlier in the day via Ramtha from Syria. Petra said he was carrying a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

In a statement to Petra, Bessaieh described the message as part of ongoing consultations among Arab leaders. He said his

talks in Jordan would cover the latest developments in the region. Bessaieh Thursday discussed latest Arab developments with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Shara, officials said in Damascus. Bessaieh told reporters on arrival in Damascus that he was carrying a message from Benjedid to President Hafez Al Assad dealing with bilateral cooperation and the current Arab situation.

He said the visit was part of continued contacts between the Syrian and Algerian leaderships. Assad visited Algeria last month as part of a tour which also took him to Libya and Tunisia.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Friday meets Algerian Foreign Minister Bousalem Bessaieh (Petra photo)

Arab panel to pursue efforts; French mission delayed

Qasem reports on Kuwait meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem returned home Friday from Kuwait after taking part in the meetings of the six-member Arab ministerial committee on Lebanon.

In an arrival statement, Qasem said the committee listened to the ideas and proposals of the Lebanese Front and discussed with it suggestions proposed by the committee to solve the Lebanese crisis.

In light of the outcome of its meetings with the various Lebanese parties, the committee is currently drawing up its final perception of a solution to the crisis in Lebanon, he said.

Qasem voiced hope that the various Lebanese parties will respond to the repeated calls for a ceasefire and for initiating a national political dialogue aimed at avoiding further bloodshed and saving Lebanon and the whole region from further suffering and tragedies.

Shelling shakes Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Intermittent blasts shook Beirut Friday, keeping most of the war-weary population huddled in underground shelters and delaying a French mercy mission.

Only a handful of people ventured out of hiding after a ferocious 20-hour duel subsided into sporadic mortar exchanges early in the day.

Some shopped for food from neighbourhood groceries that opened for a few hours. Others, having been trapped in their offices since the day before, made use of the relative lull to rejoin their families.

A police spokesman said 25,000 shells and rockets hit Beirut's eastern and western sectors in the duels that began Thursday morning, coinciding with the 14th anniversary of the outbreak of civil war in 1975.

Nineteen people were killed and 50 wounded in the exchanges, which eased after an Arab League panel meeting in Kuwait issued its third ceasefire appeal in the past month.

By police count, 215 people have been killed and 727 wounded in the confrontation that began March 8 between Michel Aoun's army units and an alliance of Syrian troops and Lebanese militiamen.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who heads the six-member Arab League panel on Lebanon, expressed "extreme regret and sorrow" over the collapse of an April 5 ceasefire the panel arranged.

"The committee hopes all parties will respond to this appeal and declare their immediate adherence to the ceasefire," he told reporters.

Sheikh Sabah urged combatants "to live up to the dictates of their conscience and shoulder their responsibility towards innocent people."

He said the mediation panel would continue its mission of "intensive contacts with a view to putting an end to the sufferings of the Lebanese people."

Sheikh Sabah said he made the ceasefire appeal in telephone calls to Aoun and Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

On Thursday, the panel wrapped up two days of talks with a five-member delegation of right-wing Christian Lebanese politicians headed by George Saadeh of the Falange Party.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted unnamed "ranking sources," as saying they expected the committee to resume its contacts with the Lebanese factions within two weeks.

Diplomatic sources said the Arab League was expected to call for an Arab summit on Lebanon next month after studying the panel's proposals for a peace solution.

Hoss appealed for a ceasefire Friday "in the name of the suffering people in east and west Beirut."

"Isn't it time for everyone to realise that after 14 years of destructive war, resorting to weapons does not achieve anything," he asked.

The bombardment also forced French minister for Humanitarian Assistance Bernard Kouchner to delay his mercy mission.

A source at the civilian cabinet of acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss said French navy vessels, the hospital ship La Rance and the oil tanker Penhors, remained outside Lebanese territorial waters because of "differences between local militias on the French assistance."

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La Rance was originally scheduled to drop anchor in neutral Lebanese waters Thursday afternoon to treat casualties.

Penhors was last reported sailing towards power stations to provide them with badly needed supplies of fuel oil to keep them operating.

In Windhoek, the Namibian capital, a South African official said south African-led security forces in Namibia killed 13 SWAPO guerrillas since last Saturday.

Seven died in a single battle five kilometres from a U.N.-monitored border assembly point, said spokesman Gerhard Roux.

He said the latest fighting Thursday night took the death toll to 276 guerrillas since April 1.

South Africa agreed Friday to withdraw troops from Churches where retreating SWAPO guerrillas can report to be escorted out of Namibia, a United Nations official said.

Cedric Thornberry, director of the U.N. Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), told a news conference churches were being cleared to serve as safe havens for SWAPO guerrillas heading for Angola.

Both's estimate of SWAPO fighters in Namibia was lower than previous South African estimates of 1,900. He said 22 had been captured.

No change in dinar's exchange rate; subsidies unaffected

Cabinet approves economic, financial accord with IMF

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The government announced Friday it had agreed on a national financial and economic programme designed to reduce the budget deficit through increasing domestic revenues and curtailing expenditure without reducing subsidies on basic foodstuffs.

The five-year programme, adopted Thursday by the Council of Ministers, aims at stabilising the dinar at its present exchange rate, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Finance Minister Hanna Odeh as telling the Cabinet Thursday.

The programme, drawn up after talks with a visiting International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation, is designed to cut the budget and balance of payments deficits and achieve a real growth rate in gross domestic product (GDP) of four per cent by the end of the five-year period while keeping inflation under control, Odeh told the Cabinet.

Odeh said public spending cuts would not affect food subsidies, expected to cost around \$120 million this year, or the current exchange rate of the dinar.

He said the IMF saw the rate fixed by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) in February at 540 fils to the dollar as realistic and appropriate.

The minister said the programme also called for rescheduling of Jordan's foreign debt.

"This programme complements measures taken by the government last year and will allow Jordan to get extra financial resources from the IMF and the World Bank of up to \$275 million in the next 15 months," Odeh said.

Additional bilateral help would come from as friendly countries, he said.

The programme is primarily intended to cut the government budget deficit through reduction of government spending, increasing revenues and rescheduling

foreign debts, improving investment opportunities and maintaining control on exports and over-inflating and enhancing the role of the private sector, Odeh said.

After discussions and detailed briefing by Odeh, the Cabinet endorsed the programme in its Thursday session, held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

Rifai issued directives to the various government ministries and public institutions to take the necessary steps for implementing the programme, Petra said.

The Cabinet welcomed the agreement and thanked the financial, economic and planning committees for the efforts they made to work it out.

The Cabinet also listened to a detailed report by Odeh on the outcome of the talks and discussions with the IMF team since March 18.

Odeh said the financial and economic measures adopted by the government last year were described by the IMF team as solid and correct.

Odeh led the Jordanian team to the talks with the IMF. The team included the ministers of energy and mineral resources,

planning, industry and trade, supply and the CBJ governor.

"We have concluded the talks and reached an understanding on a letter of intent," Mohammad Yaacoub, deputy director of the IMF's Middle East Department, told Reuters earlier.

He said he would take the proposals back to IMF headquarters in Washington in a few days. The IMF's management would discuss them before sending back a letter of confirmation.

Yaacoub said he was happy with the deal but would not say how long the IMF might take to give formal approval.

A source close to the talks was quoted by Reuters as saying that the two sides had agreed on ways to reduce Jordan's budget deficit by 18 million dinars and boost government revenue by 39 million dinars a year from 1989 onwards.

The source said the government would set a 1989 public borrowing ceiling of 215 million dinars, including 140 million dinars in domestic loans and 75 million dinars in soft loans from abroad.

In subsequent years, the overall ceiling would not exceed 240 million dinars, said the source.

Morocco said seeking summit

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has sent his closest advisor to sound out Arab leaders on the possibility of an emergency Arab summit next month on the Palestinian question, diplomatic sources say.

Ahmad Reda Guedira, the king's senior political counsel since 1972, left on his mission to Middle East capitals soon after an unexpected six-hour visit to Morocco by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Arafat, cut short a visit to Poland Tuesday to fly to Rabat, telling reporters the king had requested a meeting.

A senior Palestinian source said that discussions centred on the possibility of holding an emergency summit in Morocco if it proves impossible to hold the ordinary summit in Saudi Arabia which many Arab leaders are hoping for.

Diplomatic sources say inter-Arab differences are likely to delay the convening of an ordinary summit, but Arafat needs the support of the Arab World to resist Washington pressure for more concessions and keep his own hardliners at bay.

Egypt would be invited to Morocco although it has not yet been readmitted to the Arab League.

Last week, King Hassan sent his foreign minister, Abdul Latif Filali, to Damascus. According to senior diplomatic sources he secured an undertaking that President Hafez Al Assad would not boycott a Moroccan summit to which Egypt was invited.

Syria cut ties with Morocco in 1986 in protest over the Moroccan monarch's meeting with Shimon Peres, then Israeli prime minister. They were restored in January after mediation by Saudi Arabia.

King Hassan strongly supports recent initiatives of the PLO including recognition of Israel's right to exist.

"No-one can any longer deny the positive and constructive nature of the positions they (the Palestinians) keep taking for the sake of peace," the king said in a speech last month.

"In order to give more weight to the actions and new approaches of the Palestinians, many Arab heads of state, among whom we count myself, think the time has come for the holding of an Arab summit," he added.

17 wounded in protest over Nahalin massacre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians protesting the deaths of at least five Palestinians in a police raid clashed Friday with Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank, and more than 17 were wounded by gunfire, hospital officials said.

At least 11 refugee camps, towns or villages in the West Bank and occupied Gaza Strip had demonstrations or were shut down by general strikes called to protest the killings in the village of Nahalin near Bethlehem a day earlier.

The worst confrontation came in the Askar refugee camp near the northern town of Nablus, where doctors said 12 Palestinians were hospitalised with gunshot wounds.

The victims included a three-old girl, identified as Nesien Fayad, who was struck in the left side, and an 18-year-old boy in critical condition with a bullet in the chest, they said.

Hospitals meanwhile said that a Palestinian died of wounds from a clash last week.

Fourteen-year-old Maher Shalbak of Jenin died of bullet wounds in the head, a Rambam hospital spokesman said.

Police took unprecedented measures to prevent violence at the Al Aqsa Mosque during Friday prayers, a week after a protest

erupted at the mosque, three thousand policemen were mobilised in Jerusalem, barring young Palestinians from entering the city.

Police reported only about 7,000 Muslims attended Friday prayers at Al Aqsa, far fewer than the 30,000 predicted. Apparently many were kept away by curfews on refugee camps, roadblocks outside Jerusalem and searches going into the mosque.

No major incidents were reported, but after the prayers, Palestinian protesters gathered to chant against the killings Thursday in Nahalin.

At least five Palestinians were shot to death in the village during a pre-dawn, search-and-arrest raid by Israeli border police.

The head of Israel's paramilitary border said Friday his men made "mistakes" during the Nahalin raid.

"There is no doubt there were faults in Nahalin. They must be examined and conclusions drawn," border police commander Meshulam Amit told Reuters in a telephone interview.

The clash was one of the bloodiest in the 16-month Palestinian uprising.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) put the toll in Nahalin at six. In a protest issued from its Geneva headquarters, the ICRC accused the Israeli forces of firing "without discrimination and without restraint" and called for an end to firing against defenceless civilians.

Elsewhere in the occupied territories Friday, two Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes that broke out in the West Bank city of Hebron and three suffered wounds in a similar confrontation of Bani Suheila in the Gaza Strip, hospital officials said.

In the northern village of Beita, Palestinian residents complained that about 50 Jewish settlers entered their town. The residents said the rocks were thrown at the intruders, who responded by firing into the air with sub-machine guns and rifles.

Singans daubed on the walls of Ramallah and Bethlehem, signed by the Palestine Communist Party, vowed: "The border guards' massacre will not intimidate us."

In the Nahalin clash, which Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif called a pre-planned massacre, border guards opened fire against stone-throwing residents.

Witnesses said the troops came into the village at about 1:00 a.m., returned with reinforcements several hours later, surrounded the village and began to shoot.

W. Bank Palestinians air new idea to break deadlock

CAIRO (R) — A group of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank has proposed an idea for elections there designed to break the deadlock between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), Palestinian sources said Friday.

The idea, a counter proposal to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's suggestion last week to hold elections supervised by Israeli forces, has been forwarded to top Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials.

Palestinians said it would soon be presented to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The sources would not identify who exactly was behind the proposal, but said it was floated by a group of West Bank intellectuals. It was not clear how much backing the idea had from activists on the street.

The proposal lays down a four-stage process: — Multinational forces oversee the withdrawal of Israeli troops from population centres in the West Bank and Gaza Strip although they would still retain a presence in the occupied areas; — A vote is held under international supervision to elect West Bank and Gaza members to the

Palestinian National Council (PNC); — Arafat designates five of those elected to negotiate with Israel over the terms of a two-year interim period leading to an international peace conference. The negotiations would cover internal security, trade and other issues relevant to the interim period.

— Israel negotiates with the PLO at the conference over the final status of the West Bank and Gaza.

The proposal also calls for a written guarantee from the United States that Israel would follow through on all steps, including talks with the PLO.

"We reject the ideas of Shamir, but we can take the idea of elections and make the best out of it," said a Palestinian familiar with the proposal.

"These are just ideas that were studied in the territories and they will be discussed with the leadership outside... if Arafat says there's not anything to it, it's finished."

PLO stand

The PLO representative in Cairo, Said Kamal, asked about

the proposal, said the PLO stand was clear: Elections only after full Israeli withdrawal. But he said the idea would probably be reviewed at PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Another Palestinian official, who did not want to be identified, said the PLO would not enter an interim arrangement without prior agreement on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza.

Two Israeli newspapers, in near-identical stories quoting "reports from Tunis," said the PLO had told the Americans it agreed to general elections in the occupied territories, including Arab Jerusalem, on certain conditions.

The reported PLO conditions included: — A place for the PLO in negotiations or a final settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

— American guarantees to consult the PLO on negotiations for an interim arrangement, to stop Israel driving a wedge between Palestinians inside and outside the territories.

— The right of elected Palestinians to conduct open political activity without disruption or arrest.

— No requirement that the PLO stop the uprising.

SWAPO fighters begin returning to Angola

LUANDA (Agencies) — The Namibian nationalist group SWAPO said Friday that its guerrillas, some of them wounded, had started arriving in Angola under an agreement to withdraw them from Namibia.

"They are coming... by themselves," SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation) Information Secretary Hidipo Hamutenya told Reuters in Luanda.

Hamutenya said the guerrillas were being met on the border by SWAPO leaders and Angolan officials and would be confined to bases north of the 16th Parallel, some 150 kilometres from the Namibian frontier as agreed in a withdrawal scheme worked out by South Africa, Angola and Cuba Sunday.

The scheme is aimed at saving a U.S. independence plan for Namibia which was threatened by

eight days of fierce fighting between SWAPO guerrillas and South African-led security forces that broke out April 1, the day the plan began.

Hamutenya said he had no precise figures of the numbers of SWAPO fighters who had so far arrived in Angola. But he added: "There are 15 wounded so there must be more who are not."

He said the guerrillas had made their way out of Namibia to the Angolan border without stopping at special assembly points set up by the U.N. peacekeeping forces in Namibia to receive them. The posts were part of the withdrawal scheme worked out by South Africa, Angola and Cuba with U.S. and Soviet help.

SWAPO has rejected the idea of the assembly posts, saying they are traps set by the South African army to capture its men, and has ordered SWAPO fighters to re-

port directly to Angola. "You can forget about the assembly posts," Hamutenya said.

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha said about 350 SWAPO had withdrawn and about 900 remained in Namibia as of Friday, a day before a deadline for them to leave.

Botha said about 1,600 guerrillas infiltrated into northern Namibia starting April 1, the first day of a ceasefire and a year-long, United Nations-supervised process to make the territory independent. Over the next eight days, 263 guerrillas and 27 members of the South African-led security forces reportedly were killed in fighting.

Both's estimate of SWAPO fighters in Namibia was lower than previous South African estimates of 1,900. He said 22 had been captured.

In Windhoek, the Namibian capital, a South African official said south African-led security forces in Namibia killed 13 SWAPO guerrillas since last Saturday.

Seven died in a single battle five kilometres from a U.N.-monitored border assembly point, said spokesman Gerhard Roux.

He said the latest fighting Thursday night took the death toll to 276 guerrillas since April 1.

South Africa agreed Friday to withdraw troops from Churches where retreating SWAPO guerrillas can report to be escorted out of Namibia, a United Nations official said.

Cedric Thornberry, director of the U.N. Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), told a news conference churches were being cleared to serve as safe havens for SWAPO guerrillas heading for Angola.

Chad says rebellion crushed

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad said Friday it had crushed a rebellion earlier this month involving Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahamat Ito, the country's army commander and a presidential adviser.

The plot was uncovered on the night of April 1, an official communiqué said, but forces loyal to President Hissene Habre in the Central African country had "put an end to this senseless adventure and annihilated the band of traitors."

It said Ito, army commander Hassan Djamous, presidential security adviser Idriss Deby and an unspecified number of others "deserted the ranks of loyal Chadian forces and entered into open rebellion against the institutions of the republic."

Ito was arrested in the capital N'Djamena the same night, the communiqué said, but it did not say what happened to Deby and Djamous. Deby was previously army commander-in-chief.

Reports circulating in the capital said the two had fled east towards Sudan, where Chadian rebel groups continue to operate.

The communiqué said the plotters were "consumed by ambition and manipulated by Chad's enemies and thought they could defy the authority of the state."

Habre urged the Chadian people to "redouble their efforts to



Hissene Habre

unmask and destroy forever these demons of subversion, division and chaos."

Ito was among Chad's most prominent ministers and served on occasion as a stand-in for Habre at official functions.

Last November he headed a delegation which negotiated a peace pact with one of Chad's principal opposition leaders, Acheikh Ibn Omar, who has since joined the government as foreign minister.

Habre was brought many former opponents into his cabinet in an effort to mend the damage done by 20 years of civil war.

Last October, Chad restored diplomatic links with Libya, which had supported rebel forces against Habre during several years of fighting between the two countries.

In Paris, diplomatic sources said they had heard from N'Djamena that Djamous had been arrested Friday. The reports could not be confirmed.

Afghan rebels ambush trucks

KABUL (R) — Afghan rebels Friday ambushed a convoy of fuel and food trucks arriving from the Soviet Union, setting a number on fire, drivers said.

But despite heavy fighting at least 90 trucks got through a rebel blockade along the Salang Highway, bringing precious supplies to the capital.

Helicopter gunships flew low over the convoy and armoured cars and tanks fired at guerrilla positions in a bid to clear the vital highway. Columns of smoke mushroomed in the sky about 20 kilometres from Kabul.

Drivers told Reuters they had seen groups of soldiers defecting to the rebels who ambush convoys from positions along the mountainous territory through which the highway runs north to the Soviet border.

Rebels also fired on the convoy from positions in the snow-capped mountains around Kabul, drawing fire from government tanks dug in along the route.

It was not clear how many of the several hundred trucks had been destroyed.

Fighting was still going on four hours after the first trucks arrived in the capital, making it impossible for the rest to get there Friday as the helicopter gunships do not escort them after dark.

The convoy was the first to arrive since the rebels blocked the vital route more than a week ago.

The last arrived April 6 when an explosion ripped through an oil depot in Kabul, destroying 12 of the 70 fuel trucks which had completed that journey.

The army has been fighting for several days to reopen the Salang which had been cut off at two points by the guerrillas, determined to starve Kabul into surrender now that President Najibullah has no Soviet troops to back up his army. Moscow's troop withdrawal was completed Feb. 15.

The other highway running south to the besieged city of Jalalabad has been closed for several weeks.

With the country's two main roads supplying the capital closed, a constant Soviet airlift of food and military equipment has enabled the government of Najibullah to fight a loose alliance of rebel organisations based in Pakistan.

But the airlift brings in less than half the 600 tonnes of flour Kabul needs every day and a shortage of essential supplies has sent prices soaring.

There is also a serious fuel shortage in the capital with almost all petrol stations idle and few cars running in the bumpy streets of the city.



Demonstrators hang a Palestinian flag near a mosque in occupied Jerusalem during a funeral march Monday for a Palestinian slain by a Jewish gunman near the Holy City's Jaffa Gate.

Husseini welcomes elections but not under occupation

CAIRO (R) — Leading Palestinian activist Faisal Al Husseini has said he is not against elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but rejected holding them while the territories were under Israeli occupation.

"From my point of view and the Palestinians as well, elections is one of the high levels of democracy. I don't believe that there is freedom and democracy under the Israeli occupation," Husseini told reporters Thursday.

"So we are not against elections, but we can't accept them under occupation," Husseini, who lives in the West Bank, told a Foreign Press Association meeting.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who refuses to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), last week offered Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza the chance to negotiate a peace settlement by staging "free and democratic" elections.

The PLO would be conditional on the end of the uprising in the occupied territories.

Husseini said Israel would have to withdraw from the territories before Palestinians could consider the proposal, echoing remarks by a senior aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"The PLO is fully for free and democratic elections... but you can't have democracy without freedom," Bassam Abu Sherif told reporters Thursday.



Faisal Husseini

Shamir 'buying time'

Husseini, who was freed last January after 18 months in an Israeli jail, accused Shamir of trying to buy time with his election proposal which has been cautiously backed by the United States.

"We believe that he is trying to win more time... the election idea is a sheer trick and no one will accept it," Husseini said.

He said Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza had chosen the PLO as their sole representatives.

He said even if they went ahead with the elections and West Bank Palestinians were elected, Shamir would still have to talk to the PLO.

"Mr. Shamir knows better than anyone else that in any elections, the PLO will be there," Husseini said.

He said there were no guarantees that after the elections, held under international supervision, Israeli troops would not arrest or detain Palestinians.

Husseini predicted that Shamir would not remain in office by the end of 1990.

"The intifada will go on. I don't believe that Mr. Shamir will remain in power by the end of 1990. He will have to talk to the PLO or resign."

Husseini said he favoured an international conference on the Middle East which he hoped would lead to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied lands and the formation of an independent Palestinian state.

Shamir, who rejects the idea of land for peace, Thursday told American newspaper editors in Washington that Israel could not survive if it withdrew from the occupied territories.

"The truth is if we withdraw there will be a PLO state on the outskirts of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and war," Shamir said.

The PLO has a different opinion.

"The two-state solution is the solution that will bring lasting peace, the solution that will guarantee and safeguard the safety and future of both Israelis and Palestinians," Abu Sherif said.



Javier Perez de Cuellar

Arafat, U.N. chief may meet in Europe

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Palestine observer here has been given the U.N. secretary general's schedule for a planned visit to Europe in case Palestine President and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat wants to see him, a U.N. spokesman said Thursday.

Spokesman Francois Guiliani told reporters Zehdi Labib Teiz, the U.N. observer, had discussed the matter with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"Should Mr. Arafat wish to see the secretary general then present they will try to (meet)," Guiliani said.

Perez de Cuellar will be in Luxembourg April 17-19, Geneva until April 25, and then to Warsaw, Krakow and Vienna. He returns to New York April 29.

Arafat last met the secretary general in Geneva in December when the U.N. General Assembly met there to discuss the Palestine question. Arafat made a major address that led to the opening of contacts between the PLO and the United States.

At the General Assembly's direction, the secretary general has been trying to arrange an international conference on the Middle East. He was rebuffed again by Israel this week in a brief meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Vienna talks postponed

A meeting planned for Friday in Vienna between Arafat and Israeli opposition parliamentarians has been postponed, a PLO official said Thursday.

The meeting, arranged with Austrian government help, had been put off indefinitely "because of questions of agenda and technical reasons," a spokesman for the Vienna office for the PLO said.

Neither PLO nor Austrian officials would name the Israelis due to have taken part.

U.S. author makes new 'revelation' about Khomeini and Rushdie affair

WASHINGTON (AP) — A leading writer on Islamic militancy said Thursday that the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's order to kill Salman Rushdie had nothing to do with revenge over the contents of his book, "The Satanic Verses."

Robin Wright said that Khomeini, seizing upon the growing fury among Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims over the book, issued the edict against Rushdie in a bid to gain the leadership of the entire Islamic world.

Wright, author "Sacred Rage: The Wrath of Militant Islam," and the upcoming "In the Name of God: Khomeini's Revolutionary Decade," said Khomeini also was using the issue to divert attention from domestic problems, just as he created the U.S. hostage crisis in 1979 to mobilise public support for his troubled regime.

But "I suspect that Khomeini is in a minority" among Iranian clerics and political leaders on the

issue of Rushdie, she said, noting the assassination order "basically erased most of the diplomatic gains made by Iran since the end of the war with Iraq." She predicted history will view the episode as "a tragic spasm."

Wright, a national security reporter for the Los Angeles Times, was among participants in a seminar on the Rushdie affair at the annual convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

She said Thursday she did not doubt Khomeini was "genuinely outraged by the comic and almost pornographic approach to Islam taken in 'Satanic Verses'."

But she noted the assassination order, coupled with a \$5.2-million bounty offer, was not issued until mid-February, five months after publication.

Rushdie, born in India of Muslim parents, and his American wife, author Mary Wiggins, went into hiding, presumably in England, shortly after Khomeini's

order.

The book includes a brothel scene in which prostitutes take the names of the Prophet Muhammad's wives, and it suggests Muhammad wrote the Holy Koran instead of receiving it from Allah.

Wright noted that Islam "is not the only religion to condemn those who engage in blasphemy." She cited a passage from the Book of Leviticus in the Old Testament: "He that blasphemeth the name of the Lord... shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him."

Andy Ross, owner of a California bookstore that was bombed in February after it began selling Rushdie's novel, said: "The bombing accomplished its goal, which was to create an atmosphere of terror, and to let the world know that under the new order of things, the sale of prescribed ideas could be conducted only at great personal risk."

Bush: S. Arabia does not have nuke, chemical weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Thursday that Saudi Arabia does not possess nuclear, chemical or biological weapons for use in terrorism or warfare.

If Bush had found otherwise, the administration would have been barred from selling certain military products to Saudi Arabia.

In a formal presidential certification, Bush said Saudi Arabia has bought intermediate-range missiles from China but "there is no credible intelligence reporting indicating that Saudi Arabia possesses nuclear, chemical or biological weapons."

Moreover, he said, "we are not aware" of production facilities for chemical or biological agents or weapons. He said Saudi Arabia possesses "no significant nuclear facilities."

A law enacted by Congress requires the president to make a certification about Saudi Arabia's arsenal in order to continue military sales.

Bush said that both the Saudis and Chinese have informed the United States that the missiles purchased from Peking will not be equipped with nuclear warheads.

The Saudis also have pledged the missiles will not be armed with chemical warheads, Bush said.

"We remain concerned about the possible proliferation of these types of weapons in the Middle East and will continue to watch developments closely," Bush said. He promised to notify Congress of a change in developments in Saudi Arabia.

Montazeri's son, son-in-law arrested

TEHRAN (U.T.) — Revolutionary Guards have arrested the son and son-in-law of Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, the man sacked as successor to spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, according to the Iranian rebel group, Mujahadeen-e-Khalq.

Units of Pasdaran from Revolutionary Guards corps and the ministry of information, "acting on Khomeini's direct orders," raided the home of Mullah Hadi Hashemi, the chief of staff of Montazeri's office and his son-in-law, said a Mujahadeen statement released to the Jordan Times Thursday.

The guards beat up all the occupants of the house, including Hashemi's wife (Montazeri's daughter) and arrested Hadi Hashemi and Montazeri's son, Saeed. It said "The two men are still held in detention. Hadi Hashemi's brother, Mehdi, was executed in 1987 on Khomeini's orders."

Khomeini dismissed the ayatollah as his designated heir on March 25 and since then Montazeri's influence has diminished. Sources, quoting informed contacts in Iran, confirmed the Mu-

jahadeen report that the two men had been taken by Khomeini's revolutionary guards. Reuters reported from Nicaragua.

The Iranian sources said the report was correct. But they could not confirm details.

Last week, the Mujahadeen were first to report civil disturbances in Montazeri's hometown Najafabad by his supporters. An Iranian newspaper confirmed the report this week.

Saeed Montazeri is the brother-in-law of Mehdi Hashemi who was executed in 1987 on charges of corruption. It was Mehdi Hashemi who exposed the 1986 secret deal between the United States and Iran to exchange arms for U.S. hostages held in Lebanon.

Hundreds of members of the guards corps detachment in the Najafabad have been sacked on charges of opposing Khomeini, the Mujahadeen said. The dismissed guards have had to sign a written pledge not to take part in political activities any more. In addition, a large number of Najafabad guards are still in jail, the rebel statement said.

The clashes and the systematic

purge of Montazeri's followers are still continuing and take on greater dimensions every day, it said. A decree issued by Khomeini dissolved all the "representation offices" of Montazeri in universities across the country. The duties of these offices have been taken over by another "regressive" organ, the Supreme Council for the cultural revolution, according to the Mujahadeen.

In a comment on Montazeri's deposition by Khomeini, Mujahadeen leader Massoud Rajavi emphasised that the move "signalled the eruption of endless rounds of factional fighting at the highest levels of the Khomeini regime." He said Montazeri's deposition would entail extensive, violent purges and eliminations and that so long as Khomeini and his illegitimate regime remained, there would be no peace or "moderation."

He added: "The pose is tightening around Khomeini's neck. The ground is being set in every way for the overthrow of this bloodthirsty dictatorship by the National Liberation Army (NLA) of Iran." The NLA is the military arm of the Mujahadeen.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:30 Kinan
14:55 Children programmes
16:15 Cooking programme
16:50 Arabic series
17:20 Health programme
18:00 Religious period
18:20 Ramadan contest
18:35 Arabic series
19:30 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:50 Religious series
22:25 Riddle
23:00 News in Arabic
23:15 Arabic series
00:15 Arabic film

PROGRAMME TWO

18:20 Crusades
18:50 Des Chiffres et de Lettres
19:40 News in French
19:55 Le d'Heure du Procope
19:50 News in Hebrew
19:45 Natural Phenomena
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Just the Ten of us
21:00 Allied Hitchcock presents
21:50 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:30 Late-night Dore

PRAYER TIMES

03:42 Fuji

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swatish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
63705
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzavanda Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
625433
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel.
685526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

The effects of Khamseini conditions
ends today. Consequently a drop in
temperatures and a rise in humidity
rates will occur, and some clouds will
appear at low altitudes. Winds will be
westerly to northwesterly moderate. In
Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly
moderate winds and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 12 / 21
Aqaba 16 / 31
Deserts 15 / 30
Jordan Valley 10 / 24

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 23, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings:
Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 35 per
cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wael Kharabi 669117
Dr. Asrar Aqabeh 624566
Dr. Abdul Rahman Najjar 775100
Dr. Mahmoud Jabr 896911
Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nabrouk pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 640945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Munther Al Sheikh Salem (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (985338)

ZARQA:
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein (—)
Khalil pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 252, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62209093
Blood Bank 775123
Highway Police 844022
Traffic Police 65039091
Public Security Department 650000 / 685111
Price Complaints 605800
Hotel Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467

AMMAN Municipality
Complaints 767111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Aidil Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushtaq Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/87
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Basiri, J. Asrafi 775111/26

Amry, Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 02240050
Amal Hospital 674125
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)980732
IRBID:
Princess Besma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Hays Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal
Jordanian (RJ) information depart-
ment at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it
should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:55 Baghdad (RJ)

09:00 New Delhi (RJ)
09:00 Karachi (RJ)
09:30 Aqaba (RJ)

09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
10:30 Miami, Vienna (RJ)
10:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)
10:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00 Damascus, Tripoli (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

01:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
09:55 Cairo (MS)
12:15 Baghdad (TA)
15:45 Benghazi (LN)
16:25 Riyadh (SU)
18:05 Rome (AZ)
21:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
06:55 Aqaba (RJ)
10:00 Tripoli (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

11:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
11:40 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:45 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:15 Paris (RJ)
15:40 Kuwait, Dhaka (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:00 Larnaca (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:15 Doha (RJ)

09:00 New Delhi (RJ)
09:00 Karachi (RJ)
09:30 Aqaba (RJ)

09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
10:30 Miami, Vienna (RJ)
10:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)
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15:40 Kuwait, Dhaka (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:00 Larnaca (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:15 Doha (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upplower price in \$/kg per kg
Almond 600 / 500
Apple 500 / 400
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Beans 380 / 300
Broad beans 130 / 100
Cabbage 90 / 60
Carrots 200 / 160
Cauliflower 180 / 140
Cucumbers 250 / 200
Dates 480 / 400
Eggplant 300 / 240
Garlic 250 / 200
Lemon 230 / 200
Lettuce (per one) 100 / 70
Marrow (large) 70 / 40
Marrow (small) 120 / 80
Orange (Shamouti) 370 / 300
Onion (dry) 180 / 150
Onion (green)



Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Thursday is being briefed on the functions of a workshop held in preparation for the establishment of the Jubilee School.

Queen Noor attends last session Jubilee School workshop

AMMAN (J.T.) — A week long workshop on new trends in curriculum development and instruction in chemistry to prepare for the opening of the Jubilee School ended in Amman on Thursday with Her Majesty Queen Noor attending the closing session.

A total of 21 specialists, educationalists, and high calibre teachers from various educational institutions in Jordan took part in the workshop activities which were organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the British Council and the Mofat House College of Education in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The queen heard a briefing by Mrs. Nawal Kamal the director of the Jubilee project on the objectives of the workshop and the nature of discussions by the concerned educationists who she said came from schools and institutions run by the Ministry of Education, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Jordanian universities and the Armed Forces.

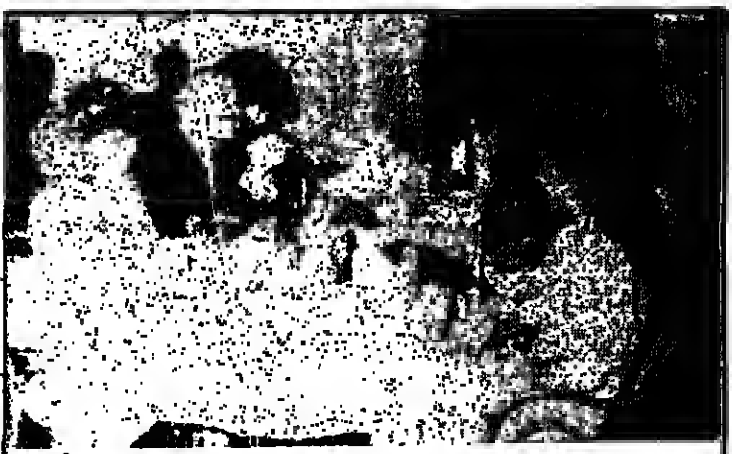
The workshops are bound to prepare teachers and supervisors for the Jubilee School and offer the chance for an exchange of ideas and expertise. Mrs. Kamal noted, Dr. Douglas Buchanan from the Moray House College presented to the Queen a review of the workshops programmes which deal with science teaching methods, tests for students, the employment of audio visual aids and computers in teaching and the participants in the workshop discussed and learnt about

new directives in matters related to problem-solving skills that included sorting information, interpreting graphs, drawing up conclusions, explaining, predicting and generalising.

The participants considered available material dealing with science and technology in the society, and tried out techniques used to develop and assess practical skills, according to the organisers.

The Jubilee School will be a model secondary school for gifted students and is being established by the NHF in honour of His Majesty King Hussein's deep commitment to education and in recognition of the greater strides made under his leadership.

Two similar workshops were held in the summer of 1988, also in preparation for the Jubilee School which will be built near Amman. The projected JD 4 million school is expected to be ready before the 1990-1991 scholastic year.



Prince Mohammad, Princess Haya, Princess Taghreed attend fashion show

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein and Princess Taghreed Thursday attended a fashion show displaying Arab costumes at the Regency Hotel in Amman. The fashion designer was

Yahya Al Bishri, a well-known Saudi Arabian designer.

The fashion show was organised by the Queen Alia Foundation for Hearing and Speech in cooperation with Royal Jordanian. The proceeds will benefit the foundation's humanitarian activities and programmes (Petra photo).

Energy conference in May

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — An international conference on energy systems will open in Amman on May 15 with the participation of engineers and scientists from Jordan and other Arab foreign countries, according to an announcement here Friday.

The announcement was made by the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) which is organising the conference in cooperation with specialists from scientific research centres and universities from Arab and foreign countries.

According to JEA the three day conference will review 23 working papers on solar energy and its applications, the use of solar and wind energy in addition to renewable energy resources.

During the three day conference there will be an exhibition at the University of Jordan displaying all forms of equipment employed in the production of energy and helping to rationalise energy consumption, the JEA said. It noted that Jordanian, Arab and foreign companies concerned with solar power and rationalisation of energy consumption will be represented at the exhibition.

According to JEA officials the coming conference will aim at helping experts to exchange information and experience and discuss the effects of solar power on national economies and also focus attention on energy systems in general.

'Electoral law ready for cabinet approval'

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan has revised its electoral law to exclude the inhabitants of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and end the allocation of seats for Palestinians in refugee camps inside the country, a senior Jordanian official said.

"The revised law is now ready for endorsement by the cabinet," the official told Reuters on condition that his name was withheld.

The amendments follow His Majesty King Hussein's announcement on July 31 that Jordan had severed legal and administrative links with the West Bank.

The move boosted the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Jordan's 1960 election law provided for 30 seats each for the East and West Bank.

A 1986 law, that was never used for an election, gave the East Bank 71 seats, the West Bank 60 and allocated 11 seats for Palestinians living in refugee camps inside Jordan.

If the revised law is approved the new Lower House of Parliament will have only 71 seats.

Palestinians living in the West Bank were issued with Jordanian passports valid for only two years after the separation.

These are merely travel documents and do not entitle holders of Jordanian citizenship and the right to vote in Jordanian elections.

They had previously held the ordinary five-year Jordanian passports as they were deemed Jordanian citizens living under Israeli occupation.

Most Palestinians living in refugee camps inside Jordan have Jordanian citizenship. Under the

amended law they will be able to stand for election and vote in the constituencies where their camps are located.

"The refugee camp's status as independent constituencies is now changed and voters registered there will be redistributed among other constituencies," the official said.

The only change for them is that they will not have a special allocation of 11 seats as previously.

No decision has been taken yet on holding general elections, senior officials and Arab diplomats have said.

King Hussein dissolved the Lower House of Parliament, half of whose 60 seats were held by West Bank deputies, on July 30 — one day before links with the West Bank were severed.

The West Bank deputies were originally elected a few weeks before Israel occupied the area in the 1967 war.

The 30-member Upper House or Senate appointed by the King was not affected when the Lower House was dissolved. It will be retained under the amended law. It has no powers to legislate without the Lower House.

King Hussein said in July the separation would not affect the 40 per cent of Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin among the estimated 3.2 million population.

"Jordanians of Palestinian origin living in Jordan are an integral part of the Jordanian state, they belong to it, they live on its land... they all have the rights of Jordanian citizenship and its obligations," the King said.

He said at the time he hoped to demonstrate this in the near future "through the democratic process, where those who accept to be citizens of Jordan can enjoy their rights of running for elections and being elected."

ACC boosts Aqaba role — Qaqish

AQABA (Petra) — Aqaba acquires a central geographical position among port cities of the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) states which group Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen, and therefore is expected to play a leading role in the region's tourism, trade and economic cooperation, Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) President Bassam Qaqish said in a statement Friday.

Qaqish said the port city is gradually becoming a major industrial centre in view of the concentration of industries and due to the export facilities of Jordanian phosphate, potash and fertilizers.

Several studies have been carried out for the city's comprehensive development and that of the human settlements around the city — inhabited by some 55,000 people — and a number of projects are underway in the course of a plan to promote industry, tourism and export import operations, Qaqish noted.

As to tourism, he said the city is witnessing continual development and growth, and ARA is carrying out projects to help in this respect. He said that at present work is going on in setting up the Arab palm tree forest in which no less than 5,000 trees will be planted. A similar forest is being set up by ARA in Qwueira.

ARA has also plans to set up a cultural centre in Aqaba, which

will have a museum, a library and sports facilities.

Qaqish said that a sports complex has been completed in Aqaba and the Royal Yachting Club is currently building other sports facilities and installations.

ARA is going ahead with construction projects to develop poor areas like Shallaleh and Saladin districts of Aqaba, Qaqish added.

ARA has also floated a tender to set up 600 chalets work on which will start in 1989 and an agreement has been reached with Royal Jordanian to set up a 300 room hotel near the coast part of ARA's ongoing efforts to promote tourism, Qaqish said.

According to the Ports Corporation Department's deputy director Isam Habash, the port in Aqaba earns the treasury between JD 10 and 12 million annually, mostly revenues and fees collected from transporting goods and passengers and transit services as well as fees for storing goods at the port.

In the past years nearly 18 per cent of the total Iraqi oil exports went through the Aqaba port which still serves as a main entry centre for Iraqi goods, Habash noted.

He said that among the projects underway at the port is a JD 450,000 tower which would provide navigational guidance to ships. He said that a JD 1.7 million passenger terminal is nearing completion.



King hosts iftar banquet

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday evening hosted an iftar banquet at Al Hussein Youth City. Attending the banquet were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's private advisor Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ibn Zaid, senior officials, secretary generals of

different ministries, provincial governors, university presidents, heads of semi independent organisations, presidents of professional and trade unions, heads of the Christian community in Jordan, and members of the board of trustees of the Arab Youth Forum. The King and the guests performed the evening prayers before the banquet.

Pure, natural, healthy water

In the second of a two parts article on bottled water in Jordan, water experts discuss the quality of the bottled water and means of protecting its quality from deterioration. Part one appeared in Thursday's issue.

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

DIRECTOR of the Water Research and Studies Centre (WRSC) at the University of Jordan, Dr. Elias Salameh defines "pure, natural, healthy, mineral water" as "natural water not treated physically or chemically, is poured immediately into the bottles (from the water source) and contains 1000 milligrammes of salts. In all its properties it resembles drinking water qualities and it should have a certain nutritional and physical effect or it contains at least 250 milligrammes of CO₂ gas."

"Pure", according to Salameh, means that the water sources should not contain common bacteria types which can multiply in the bottle, "indicating contamination of the source."

According to the Vice President of Gbadeer, Ramzi Haditheh, and the head of Kawthar, Ma'an Zabian, the treatment process of bottled water, which includes filtration, ultraviolet, carbon filter and ozonisation, renders the water "bacteria-free" and thereby "pure."

However, ozonisation has created a "controversy," on whether the water is "natural" or not. Salameh said that some experts do not consider ozonisation a treatment "because the ozone vanishes."

University of Jordan Microbiologist, Dr. Fuad Hashweh, believes that ozonisation is a treatment. "Ozone changes the quality of some of the material (in the water). It oxidises the material, making the water no longer 'natural'."

Salameh added that mineral water can not be taken in "all the time like drinking water which is pure, natural with a total dissolved solids amounting to less than 100 milligrammes."

Drinking too much mineral water, "has negative health hazards in the long run," said Salameh, citing kidney stones as an example.

Hashweh added that if bottled water has 500 milligrammes of total dissolved solids then it is considered a low mineral water content, and if it has more than 1,000 milligrammes then it is richer in minerals.

He believes that it is the companies duty to classify the water on the label by mentioning the total dissolved solids present. "This would give the consumer an idea of his or her mineral intake," said Hashweh. The specification makes such classification optional.

If CO₂ is added to the water,

Salameh said, this should also be mentioned on the label.

Head of the Land Protection Dr. Saleh Share and head of the water protection Ahmed Khatab at the Department of Environment agreed with the experts from the University of Jordan that the label should be changed.

"It is supposed to read 'natural treated water' not 'mineral water' since it should have certain salts and minerals and a certain amount of carbon dioxide," said Khatab.

The main difference between the bottled water and tap water according to Salameh and Share lies in the treatment. While bottled water has ozone to kill the bacteria, tap water uses chlorine.

Share considers the use of ozone "better healthwise." Salameh on the other hand said that the presence of residual chlorine kills the bacteria in the tap water, long after the ozone has evaporated from the bottled water.

However, the bottled water companies are not accused of "fooling" their customers since they are abiding by the specifications set by the Department of Standardisation and Metrology.

According to the department director Hassan Al Saud, the department requires the companies to include the name of the company, the contents of the bottle and the filling and expiry dates.

"These (criteria) were set by the technical committee (which covers all the private and public sectors working with water)," said Saud.

He added that if any side is dissatisfied with the specifications, they "can ask for changes in these specifications provided they are supported with studies."

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If CO₂ is added to the water,

Mediterranean health meeting concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — General health issues in the East Mediterranean region and the programmes of the Amman-based Regional Centre for Environmental Health activities were discussed by a World Health Organisation (WHO) regional consultative committee at a two day meeting which was concluded in Amman Friday.

The health ministers of Morocco, Syria and Jordan are among the 14 member committee which also includes former ministers, health specialists and representatives of ministries of planning in the Mediterranean region, according to a spokesman.

He said that WHO regional Director Hussein Abdul Razzak Al Jaza'iri chaired the committee

meeting which discussed matters designed to achieve comprehensive health development.

The two day meeting, he added, covered such questions as school health programmes, resolutions taken by the committee in its previous meetings last year and means of involving citizens in the planning development schemes.

NAF spends JD 8,390 in March

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) last month spent JD 8,390 on projects designed to help needy families earn their own income and stop receiving NAF's assistance.

NAF Director General Khalil Al Fa'oni said that loans which amounted in some cases to JD 3,000 were given to projects to be carried out by the heads of the needy families depending on the size and type of project.

He said that 35 per cent of the loan is considered as a grant while the remaining 65 per cent will be repaid over very long periods of time after the project had started earning sufficient income for the families.

In Most cases NAF provides the loans and the grants to those handicapped people who support families, and in many cases the NAF finances vocational training programmes to rehabilitate the beneficiaries and enable them to carry out the required jobs to earn income.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arab press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.

FILM

- * A German film entitled "Heinrich" (English subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8:30 p.m.

RAMADAN SOUQ

- * Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuff, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.

The anatomic solution.

RADO DiaStar

Mod. dép. Swiss Made available in ladies and men's size.



Traditionally, female characters in Kathakali are played by males but there has been recent change in this respect.

The colourful classical Indian dance-drama of Kathakali is enjoying a revival. Anand Shankar looks behind the scenes for an insight into the traditional splendour of this noble art.

AS DUSK gently descends on the village, the stillness is shattered by a deafening noise from the temple courtyard. The rhythmic beat of drums announces that a Kathakali performance is being held here tonight.

This is Kerala, Kathakali country. In this southwestern state of India, Kathakali is a unique art form as symbolic of the palm-fringed land as its serene backwaters, mountains and paddy fields.

The performance tonight is Kalyanasugandham, one of the more exciting Kathakali pieces, taken from an episode in the Indian epic, The Mahabharata. It tells essentially of the quest for a rare flower of the same name by Bhima, a valiant, strong, yet foolhardy prince.

His half-brother Hanuman, the monkey god, cannot bear the sight of Bhima's arrogance as he stomps through the forest, destroying everything in his way and sending the beasts scurrying for cover.

To teach him a lesson in humility, Hanuman disguises himself as a decrepit old monkey and obstructs Bhima's path. In a test of wills and strength, Bhima is humbled. Realising he is up against someone vastly superior, he relents and Hanuman reveals himself. Bhima

proceeds in search of the flower, a wiseman.

Hanuman's part is played by Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair, former principal of Kerala's most prestigious Kathakali school, and foremost exponent of the art today. Involved with Kathakali for more than 50 years, Ramankutty Nair's forte is the role of Hanuman. The whole village knows there's none better to play this role and it's soon apparent their expectations are not unjustified.

Resplendent in his awesome makeup, enormous skirt, high headgear and colourful costume, he enters the stage and yanks the curtain away. Silence envelops the crowd. This is a role the old master has played countless times and each time they tell you, it gets better.

He brings the forest to the stage: with intricate hand gestures and graceful eye and body movements, he paints a vivid picture of the chaos that he witnesses. He struts around imitating Bhima whom he can see in all his arrogance. He imitates the deer, the elephants, the tigers and the birds which scatter in panic before Bhima's terrifying advance. The emotions come through clearly: disgust, pity, fear and fury. The accompanying singers and drummers

heighten the atmosphere and the spectator is swiftly transported to a beautiful theatre of the imagination. The whole spectacle is a fascinating experience; once seen, never forgotten.

Kathakali — once seen, never forgotten

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Complex art form

Kathakali is a complex art form. First-time spectators often complain that its least understandable aspect is the gesture or *mudra*. The Kathakali actor never speaks; all words and emotions are conveyed through hand gestures. This is the language of the actor. From tragedy to happiness, the bands convey the mood and the meaning of the scene.

A single *mudra* can be used to describe as many as 73 different things, but the connoisseur — who often also revels in the tag "Kathakali maniac" — can differentiate between them. And when you consider that a Kathakali actor has to learn about 600 *mudras*, the extent of his training becomes apparent.

The *mudras* and other movements of the body depend on the story; the music, vocal and instrumental accompaniments add to the mood. Rendered in south Indian classical (Carnatic) music, the *raga* or melody is chosen to suit the mood of the moment; it can range from a slow, drawn-out tune to denote tragedy to a fast-paced, hectic rhythm to convey excitement.

There are two drummers: one plays the *chenda*, a vertical drum played with sticks; the

other plays the *maddalam*, a horizontal drum played with the fingers and the palm. The main singer beats a *goog* and his accompanying singer uses a pair of small cymbals.

Kathakali characters rely heavily on stylised makeup and costumes to establish their position in the drama, much the same as black and white denote evil and good in entertainment as diverse as the English pantomime and the classic Hollywood cowboy movie. Here green makeup is used to portray divine, heroic and royal characters, such as Bhima. Arrogant or wicked types are given sharp, knife-like features. Black is reserved for demons. A black beard is used for forest tribesmen and wild hunters. A red beard signifies a vicious evil character. White beards are reserved for characters held in the highest esteem, particularly Hanuman. Gods and saintly figures use shiny, yellow and pink to reflect their beauty and radiance. Many of these are female characters, traditionally played by men, although women are gradually finding their way on stage in these roles.

Besides these characters representing human vices and virtues, there are 18 non-human characters drawn from Hindu mythology.

Costumes are colourful and extravagant. The huge skirt-like dress is made up of several yards of cloth wound around the waist. This billowing dress may seem restrictive, but the space allows for easier leg movements, besides lending a

strikingly visual grandeur to the character.

Makeup and costume take about four hours to don, during which time the actor works himself into a trance-like state, "getting under the skin" of the character he is about to portray.

The entire body, from the limbs to the smallest facial muscle, is employed to convey an emotion and the versatility of the actor is judged by the way he uses them. The discerning viewer attaches great importance to the manner in which a character is handled by the artist; he keeps a watchful eye on the subtle shades of histrionics that can differentiate between a good performance and a bad one.

Some people have likened Kathakali to a pantomime, a ballet and an opera; Kathakali is all yet none of these.

Traditional Kerala rituals, social customs and religious influences have helped shape it over hundreds of years into its present form. In the 16th century, the ruler of the northern Kerala province of Calicut wrote the *Krishnanaattam*, a style of dance-drama that proved so popular that the king of Kottarakkara (southern Kerala) requested the loan of the troupe; the request was turned down and in his rage the subdued king composed the *raamanattam* to rival the *Krishnanaattam*. From these two different dance-dramas emerged Kathakali.

Kathakali was popular in the 17th and subsequent centuries chiefly because it was rendered

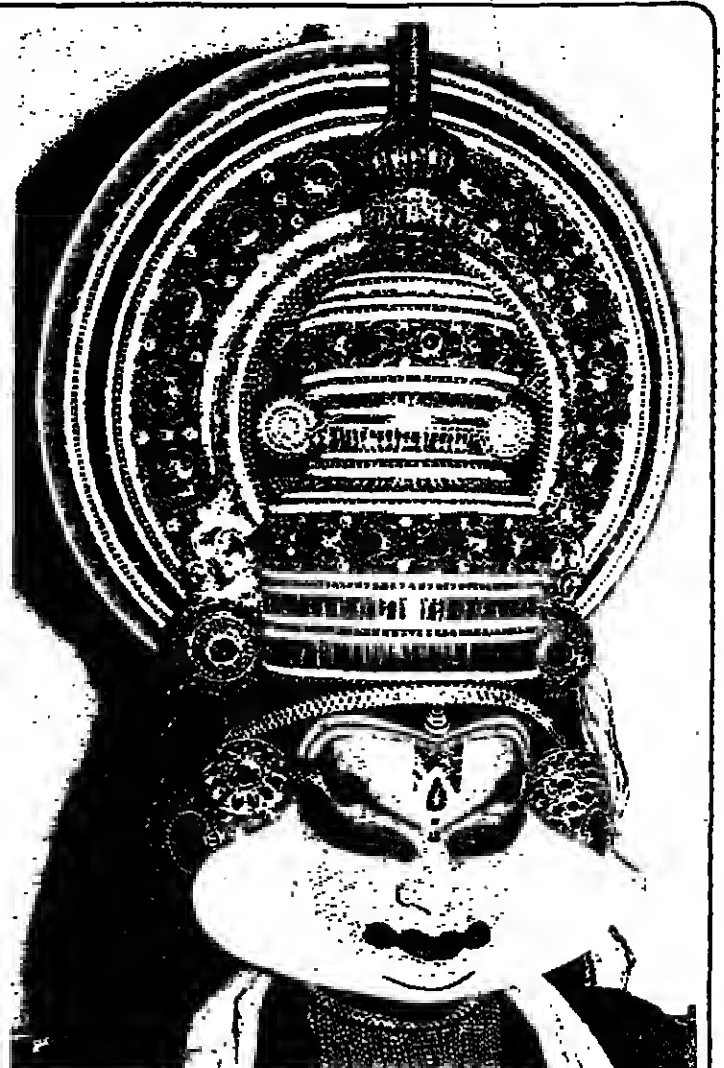
in a language that the people could understand. Until then Sanskrit was the main language of art, but the Kottarakkara ruler's work changed all that. He bled out Sanskrit and Malayalam, the language of the people of Kerala, and encouraged the royal troupe to perform in little villages and homes.

Kathakali, which had its origins in *raamanattam* and *Krishnanaattam*, developed quickly thanks to the competition between the two rulers to stage the best show. A valuable offshoot of the four Kathakali plays by another king, the Rajah of Kottayam in northern Kerala, which are still regarded as some of the finest pieces in the art's vast literature. Basic training has traditionally been given in these four stories and if the actor can master these, he is considered versatile enough to go on stage.

By the early 1900s serious involvement with the art had dwindled, and it was left to a dedicated band of Kathakali enthusiasts to resuscitate a dying tradition.

Chief among them was the eminent Malayalam poet Vallathol Narayana Menon. He started the Kerala Kalamandalam (academy of art) to train aspiring Kathakali actors, singers, musicians and make-up artists and wrote extensively on the desperate need to restore a dying tradition to its former glory.

It was an experiment that paid off handsomely: Kathakali today is known all over the world, and has found a wider



The green facial makeup indicates a divine, heroic or royal character, in this case Bhima, a valiant prince

audience in India where it is classified as one of the country's four classical dance forms. Eminent Kathakali artists have performed at prestigious venues all over India, the Middle East, America, Europe and the Far East. Players have mesmerised packed houses with incredibly moving performances.

In the pursuit of artistic excellence hundreds of young Kathakali hopefuls go through the training to reach the big league, but few make the grade. The standards and discipline are exacting. Consider the typical regimen at the Kalamandalam school: Children 10 to 13 enroll for an extensive Kathakali course to train body and mind to withstand the rigours of a night's performance. The strenuous exercises start from 3 a.m. and can last to evening with only short breaks. Included are gymnastics and rigorous instruction in the *mudras*.

Courses last for six years and at the end of each year each student's skills are tested and he is allowed to continue training only if he passes. At the end of the course he is awarded a diploma and permission to use the world Kalamandalam before his name — a coveted distinction.

Few artists, often only five or six, pass out each year, but such is the extent of training that actors who may never have seen one another before can meet hardly hours before a show and effortlessly, it would seem, get into the act. The

same applies to the singers and the accompanying percussionists.

In the last 50 years Kathakali has witnessed a remarkable revival. The style of music, particularly, has improved with a shift towards classical music. Experimentation with new themes has notably resulted in plays based on international issues, ideologies and politics. Yet the modern stories have not managed to win the kind of popularity enjoyed by stories drawn from Indian mythology.

India's most developed dance-drama has at last won the critical acclaim it deserves. So where does it go from here? For one, the Kerala's penchant for improvisation and change could manifest itself in shifting styles of presentation. One aspect could be new stories in layman's Malayalam.

Although puritans would shudder at such a prospect, arguing that a move in this direction could strip the art of its traditional flavour, there are others who believe it could result in much wider appeal.

It's doubtful if such stalwarts as Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair, the patriarch of them all, Ramankutty Nair or Kalamandalam Gopi would support this move, so further development of Kathakali is left to a growing breed of promising youngsters. Judging by their dedication, versatility, and willingness to experiment with new trends, they will ensure the art's immortality — Reprinted from Emirates magazine.



Initial makeup is done by the artists themselves usually hours before the performance begins

Green is colour of the joker in the energy deck

By Nicholas Moore
Reuters

LONDON — Time was when OPEC was the wild card in the energy pack. Now, there's the environment.

Ever before the Alaskan oil spill, a new uprush of concern was apparent over energy's role as a global pollutant. Big city smog, the Chernobyl nuclear accident and predictions of a possible "greenhouse" warming of the earth had already focused attention on the hazards of burning almost any fuel.

"We have years not decades to turn the situation around," says Lester Brown, president of the Worldwatch Institute, a U.S.-based environmentalist group.

Worldwatch's latest "State of the World" report says that, besides birth control, a priority is to curb energy use.

Industry analysts say that about

the only safe bet is that, like the "oil shocks" of the 1970s, the new problem with energy will cost money. Everything else is conjecture.

Nuclear fusion may be the eventual answer, hence the excitement when two scientists in the United States said they had got a fusion reaction to generate heat using simple chemistry.

Until now, nuclear fusion has been achieved only at huge cost and at temperatures near that of the sun or in atom bombs.

The dream is that fusion, which is less dirty than the fission process in existing reactors and uses seawater as a fuel, could one day generate limitless cheap electricity.

But the fusion age, according to sources as diverse as the U.S. nuclear industry and the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), may still be at least 20 years away.

Just how the green factor will affect the energy business in the meantime is anybody's guess.

The Valdez spillage last month, for instance, may make it easier for ecologists to stop oil drilling in other virgin areas like the Arctic national wildlife refuge (also in Alaska), said Charles Ebinger, analyst at Washington's International Resources Group.

The United States is the biggest energy user and already imports about 45 per cent of its oil. Higher U.S. imports if domestic output keeps sliding might drive up world oil prices.

If, however, it is proved that carbon dioxide from fossil fuels really is the chief culprit in a warming of the global atmosphere, pressures may build to burn less oil, coal and gas.

The West spent billions after the OPEC price "shocks" of the 1970s in just such a "save it" campaign, with the result that the

volume of oil needed for each extra dollar of gross national product is down 45 per cent since the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

The Paris-based International Energy Agency says the technology exists to renew the conservation process.

But cheap oil in the glut of the 1980s has removed the incentive and producers have lately kept the price down to get the West back on petroleum.

Worldwatch would have consumer governments counter that tactic by imposing a "carbon tax" on all fossil fuel and European Green parties now also call for higher energy taxes.

"We have to stop what can best be called a folly of the roads and try to develop a policy that favours transport by more economical means," said French Greens leader Antoine Waechter.

Natural gas, plentiful but trans-

portable by sea only in liquefied form, may in future be favoured over oil and coal.

"There is no doubt that natural gas is the 'greenest' of the hydrocarbon fuels," says a study by London brokerage Kleinwort Benson. Gas yields 40 per cent less carbon dioxide than coal.

Gas accounts now for only about 20 per cent of world energy consumption, compared with oil at 40 per cent and coal at 30 per cent. Only one-tenth of U.S. electricity is generated by gas.

The pace of ecology-led energy reform is quickening.

Britain offers tax breaks on unleaded petrol. The European Community (EC) wants tough U.S.-style pollution standards for cars even though they will add five to 10 per cent to costs.

Tighter regulations on petrol volatility, a cause of pollution, are being introduced in the United States while a new plan to reduce smog in California calls for sharp cuts in industrial emissions, for car pooling and staggered work hours.

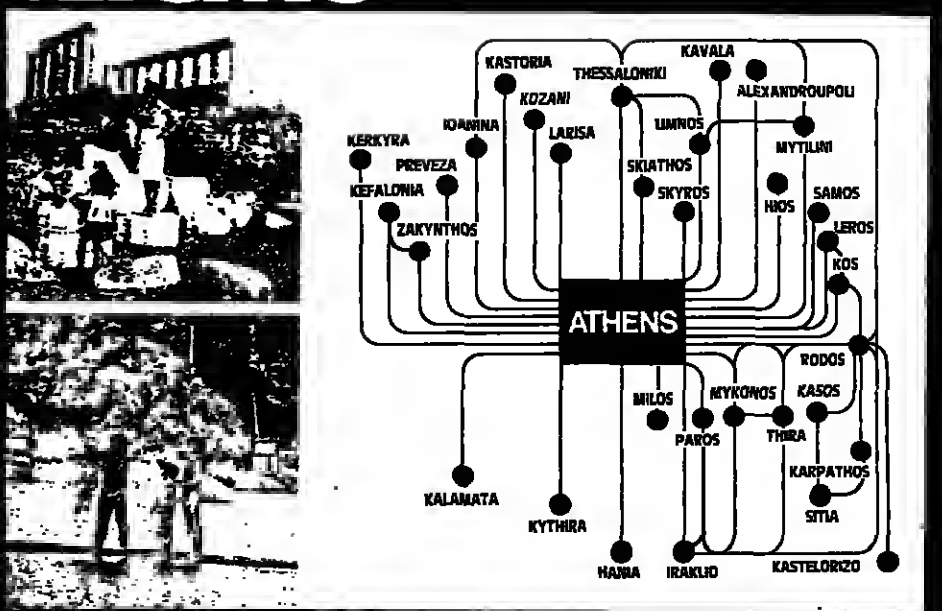
"Refiners will face unprecedented challenges arising out of environmental concerns," the chairman of AMOCO, Richard Morrow, told a U.S. oil industry gathering in San Francisco recently.

Challenges also face power utilities which burn coal. The British central electricity generating board is looking at a programme costing as much as \$2 billion to fit equipment to extract sulphur gas from emissions at its coal power stations to comply with EC measures against acid rain.

There is also the possibility that climatic change itself might affect energy demand, although scientists differ on how much hotter it might get.

Mild northern winters mean less fuel for heating. But hot summers call for air conditioning and droughts might mean more irrigation pumps.

OLYMPIC'S WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS



A WISE CHOICE

AMMAN - ATHENS		
Friday	20:15	22:45
Sunday	20:15	22:45
ATHENS - AMMAN		
Friday	23:30	02:10
Sunday	23:30	02:10

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U.S. excludes West Bank from Israel trade privileges

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States announced Thursday that it would require goods from the Israeli-occupied West Bank to be labelled to show their origin so they would not be given the trade preferences accorded Israel-made goods.

Officials at the U.S. trade representative's office said the decision was taken on the advice of the State Department and was in line with American policy of not recognising Israel's claim of "sovereignty" over the occupied territories.

U.S. officials said the move was more a political step than a trade action because there was probably little if any trade from the West Bank through Israel to the United States.

But they said it would restate U.S. policy that Israel should end its occupation of the territories and not consider the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as part of Israel.

The action followed a complaint by the Arab-American

Anti-Discrimination Council that Israel should be denied trade benefits under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) because it violated the rights of West Bank workers.

Under GSP, developing nations are given trade preferences as a way to spur economic growth, but the preferences are denied when they become developed, if they violate human or worker rights or expropriate property without compensation.

The Arab-American council said Israel denied West Bank workers trade union rights and other protections given union members while it forced workers to pay union dues.

Hiram Lawrence, the trade office's GSP director, said a deci-

sion was not made on the charge that Israel violated West Bank worker rights because of the ruling that the West Bank was not part of Israel.

But Lawrence said at a news conference that Israel itself was found not to have violated worker rights.

Discussing trade, he said "we don't think there's much coming in from the West Bank." He added that in recent years the only known shipments were textiles, which are not exempt from duties under the GSP.

Trade observers said the ruling could discourage Israel economic development of the West Bank, fought by the United States, but if there were many West Bank exports in the past, the new ban could in effect widen Israel's GSP export quota.

A country is given a certain level of GSP exports. Israel last year exported \$494 million in goods that were covered under GSP duty-free provisions.

World Bank leans to interest cuts

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank, picked by the United States to play a key role in easing the cash drain on the Third World, favours cutting the interest burden of nations such as Mexico rather than their debt stock, officials say.

Although an initiative by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady envisages cuts in both debt and debt service, experts at the bank have tentatively concluded that capping the interest on outstanding bank loans would provide more substantial relief than reducing the amount of the debt.

"That is the approach that makes most sense," said one monetary official, who asked not to be identified. "The other techniques are not even worth discussing."

U.S. officials estimate their plan could reduce the \$340 billion that troubled debtors owe to commercial banks, and the associated interest payments, by an average of 20 per cent over three years.

In the case of Mexico, which has about \$60 billion in medium- and long-term bank debt, a cut in loan principal of that magnitude would reduce annual interest payments by about \$1.2 billion, assuming interest rates are 10 per cent a year.

But the same savings could be achieved without writing down the value of the loan by reducing the interest rate to eight per cent. Lowering it to, say, six per cent would save Mexico \$2.4 billion.

Furthermore, fixing interest at a lower rate would also insulate Mexico from the possibility of a further climb in the cost of money, officials and academic experts said.

The rise in U.S. interest rates in the past year has cost the 17 biggest debtors alone an extra \$10 billion, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates.

"If the whole purpose of this programme is to reduce net resource transfer of a debt-distressed country, no attempt is made to ensure that the cash-flow benefit of debt reduction is soon not dissipated by a rise in interest rates, then it will be an exercise in futility," Shafiqul Islam, a fellow at the Council for Foreign Relations, told Congress last week.

Indeed, Mexico has told the U.S. Treasury that its preferred option in upcoming bank negotiations would be to swap its current loans for new, par-value bonds paying below-market rates of interest, monetary officials said.

It proposed backing repayment of the new bonds with U.S. Treasury securities and support-

ing interest payments for two years with IMF and World Bank resources.

On Tuesday, Mexico, whose foreign debt totals \$100 billion, moved closer to becoming the first test case of the Brady plan by signing a \$3.64 billion, three-year loan pact with the IMF.

But one monetary source said the U.S. Treasury questioned Mexican officials whether they needed such extensive support of interest and principal. "They got little joy from the Treasury," the source said.

Two alternatives Mexico has suggested — capitalisation of interest and new loans — would add to its debt stock, while a fourth option of swapping loans for market-rate bonds worth less than par would provide less relief, officials said.

Although some European banks are likely to favour the capitalisation option — deferring interest payments and adding them onto the sum of the loan — U.S. banks seem to be increasingly in favour of a swap for low interest-rate bonds.

Facing 'economic emergency'

Argentines give up family budget as hyper-inflation spreads chaos

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — With prices climbing by the hour, Argentine housewives have given up planning the family budget.

They simply take to the streets with their money and hope for the best.

"I go to the grocer's with my shopping list, but I don't know what I'll come back with. I don't even know if the money I carry will be enough," Julia Salomone said.

Prices in Argentina have rocketed in the last 10 days since Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese took charge with the intention of controlling runaway double-digit monthly inflation.

The cost of living increased 17 per cent in March and could top 30 per cent in April, economists say.

"We are now in a state of hyper-inflation. People do not know on what to base prices. It's uncontrollable," economist Rodolfo Rossi of the right-wing Union of Democratic Centre said.

Argentines, already suffering from periodic power cuts and inefficient public services, now face two more challenges — to find the goods they need and the money to buy them.

Market conditions have become so unpredictable that most shopowners will no longer accept credit cards, the traditional way to beat inflation in Argentina.

Some products have vanished from shops because manufacturers and wholesalers are withholding deliveries until they can set

prices that will at least cover the cost of buying new supplies.

Supermarkets have no biscuits, saying manufacturers will not deliver, and car spare parts businesses have simply closed.

The prices of essential foodstuffs, clothing and household items have more than doubled in the past 30 days and most goods have been marked up every day since Pugliese replaced technocrat Juan Sourrouille, retailers said.

"Total anarchy" "It is outrageous"

"This is total anarchy... the prices have gone through the roof," 40-year-old Cristina Pomerance said.

A pair of jeans that could have been bought Tuesday for 1,400 australs (\$29 at the free market exchange rate) fetched 2,500 australs (\$50) Thursday.

"A kilogramme of Sbetland wool cost 250 australs (\$5) last week and today it is 590 australs (\$11.80). It is outrageous," 18-year-old Mariana Perez told Reuters.

Flour prices have risen more than 200 per cent in a month and sugar prices have almost trebled since February.

"The only rule is there is no rule at all"

"Argentines know the only rule is there is no rule at all," shopkeeper Jorge Fingeret said.

An eloquent example of the difficulties facing housewives took place in a Buenos Aires grocery. A woman who asked for

Official explains tomato supplies, prices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The price of tomatoes in the local markets is expected to decline by the end of this month, according to Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary-General Salem Al Lawzi. He said in a statement published by Al Dustour daily Friday that the current shortage of tomatoes in the markets was due largely to the waves of frost in the past winter which damaged vast areas of farmlands. At present, he noted, tomatoes arriving at the markets come from 20,000 dunums of land near Karak, South Shuneh and other southern regions. Lawzi said that since the beginning of Ramadan there has been a noticeable increase in the demand on tomatoes which added to the problem. Lawzi also noted that Jordan's exports of tomatoes have dropped from 550 tonnes a day to 180 tonnes as a result of the poor production but exports will continue to bring in badly needed foreign currency and to preserve Jordan's traditional markets abroad.

Tunisia, Libya ratify oil, gas accord

TUNIS (R) — Libya and Tunisia have ratified an accord on offshore drilling for oil and gas. The accord provides for joint exploration and exploitation of oil and gas in a 3,000 square kilometre zone in the Gulf of Gabes. It also provides that 10 per cent of the revenue from a Libyan offshore oil field, Al Boui, will be devoted to joint Libyan-Tunisian development projects. The two countries also reached final agreement on a fisheries accord, agreed on joint efforts to combat locusts and made plans to set up a company for audio-visual production, TAP, the official Tunisian news agency reported.

Iran's oil revenue increases by \$1.5b

NICOSIA (R) — Higher crude oil prices have added \$1.5 billion to Iran's revenue in the past three months, Oil Minister Golanreza Aqazadeh said. "We are now selling our oil at 50 cents to a dollar more than official OPEC prices," Aqazadeh told Tehran radio. "I have calculated that in the past three months, our country's revenue has increased by \$1.5 billion due to the firmer prices," he added.

Australia expects 'tourism explosion'

SYDNEY (R) — Australia will witness a tourism explosion in the 1990s which could inject over 70 billion dollars (\$55 billion) into the economy, the Australian Tourist Commission has said. The commission said it expected 7.5 million people — equivalent to almost half the present population of Australia — to visit the "lucky country" in 2000. This compares with 2.25 million visitors in 1988 and a forecast made two years ago that five million would spend their vacation here in 2000. The numbers of Japanese visitors will continue to rise sharply but Asian countries other than Japan will supply the most visitors by the turn of the century, it said.

Land department earns JD 4.5m in 3 months

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lands and Survey Department's revenues in the first quarter of 1989 amounted to JD 4.5 million, according to department officials. They said that the revenues were collected in fees on selling and buying real estate, property registration and other affiliated services. In the first two months of 1989 alone, the officials said, the department collected JD 3.5 million.

Oil firms to spend \$274m in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Oil companies will spend about 750 million ringgits (\$274.5 million) to drill about 45 exploration wells in Malaysian waters this year, according to a government report. The investment is three times more than that of last year, according to the news bulletin of the government-owned National Petroleum Corporation, or Petronas. The report also quoted Abdul Aziz Mahmood, Petronas vice president for exploration and production, as saying the company has signed 17 new production-sharing agreements with 26 multinational oil companies over the past 18 months. Malaysia produces about 550,000 barrels of oil per day.

Job restriction angers Chinese students

PEKING (R) — China said Thursday its half-a-million students graduating in 1989 would not be allowed to seek their own jobs — an announcement that brought anger on campuses and in effect halted a key labour reform. The People's Daily quoted education officials as saying China's traditional system of centrally assigning jobs to its new graduates would be reimposed once more, despite student enthusiasm for a partial freeing of the job market in 1988. China gave great publicity last year to moves which allowed thousands of graduates to find their own jobs on their own terms and avoid the fate dreaded by many — of being sent to a dead-end post in a remote area, possible for life. The People's Daily said however the move had brought "negative effects." "Some students' expectations are unrealistically high," it quoted an official as saying.

Israeli trade with S. Africa stays strong

TEL AVIV (R) — South Africa's ambassador to Israel said Thursday there had been little change in trade between the two countries despite sanctions Israel imposed in September 1987. Ambassador Johan Viljoen said military cooperation had ceased but he did not know whether any military contracts were still in operation. Existing contracts were allowed to run their course under the sanctions but new contracts were barred. "There has not been much change (in the economic field) although trade initially decreased dramatically after the measures were introduced," Viljoen said at a news briefing.

"The figures for 1988 show that volume of trade was somewhat lower than in 1987 although the value of South African exports to Israel was roughly the same, whereas Israeli exports increased," he said.

South African exports to Israel in 1988 were valued at \$204 million, about the same as in 1987. Israeli exports to South Africa rose from \$100 million in 1987 to \$137 million last year, he said.

Jewish ties Viljoen said ongoing trade was largely the result of efforts by South African Jews or Israelis of South African origin here who wanted to maintain ties. South Africa's Jewish community numbers about 100,000.

The Israeli sanctions, imposed under pressure from the United States, included prohibiting the sale or transfer of oil or its products and freezing iron and steel quotas.

The sanctions did not affect large Israeli imports of South African coal for Israeli power stations.

Oil shipments Meanwhile, a Dutch-monitoring group has said that the Hong Kong-based World-Wide Shipping Group has become the leading shipper of oil to South Africa and is breaking embargoes of oil-producing countries.

World-Wide had given incomplete or incorrect information on the oil's destination to avoid embargoes against South Africa by oil-producing countries, it added.

The firm made at least 19 secret oil deliveries to South Africa between October 1986 and the end of 1988, the bureau said.

"Of the 19 voyages identified since October 1986, 17 were made from the Arab Gulf area. One country, the United Arab Emirates, accounted for the majority of these cases. Thirteen tankers sailed to South Africa after having called at the United Arab Emirates."

"By shipping oil to South Africa, World-Wide... has deliberately violated the oil embargo policies of oil exporting countries from where its tankers sailed to South Africa," the report added.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, April 13, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	
Pound Sterling	910.0	920.3	
Deutsche mark	285.7	290.1	
Swiss franc	322.9	327.8	
French franc	84.5	85.2	
Japanese yen (for 100)	404.5	409.3	
Dutch guilder	253.8	257.1	
Swedish crown	84.1	85.1	
Italian lira (for 100)	39.1	39.5	
Belgian franc (for 100)	136.8	138.5	

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	April 8-12	April 1-5
Daily average	JD 335,621	JD 552,375
Total volume	JD 1,678,104	JD 2,671,877
Total shares	876,351	1,934,197
No. of contracts	1,173	2,612
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 1,100,448 (65.6%)	JD 1,960,409 (70.9%)
Financial	JD 372,301 (22.2%)	JD 413,869 (14.9%)
Service	(5.4%)	(13.2%)
Insurance	(6.8%)	(1.0%)
Share price index	123.9	125.6
No. of companies	62	58
Price movement (rise)	17	20
(decline)	34	30
(stable)	11	8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6945/55	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1870/80	Canadian dollar
	1.8773/80	Deutsche mark
	2.1178/88	Dutch guilders
	1.6525/35	Swiss francs
	39.29/32	Belgian francs
	6.3500/50	French francs
	137/1378	Italian lire
	132.50/60	Japanese yen
	6.3780/80	Swedish crowns
	6.1830/80	Norwegian crowns
	7.2980/3030	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	388.65/389.15	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Prices eased in cautious trade ahead of the release of U.S. producer prices and trade data. The All Ordinaries index slipped 3.8 to 1,417.6.

TOKYO — Prices fluctuated in dull, directionless trade but ended higher on a late surge of index-linked buying. The Nikkei index closed up 86.50 at 33,150.44.

HONG KONG — The market closed slightly firmer but turnover was low on caution ahead of the release of U.S. economic data. The Hang Seng index rose 3.56 to 3,082.71.

SINGAPORE — Prices rose for the fifth successive day as the market shrugged off some initial nervousness. The Straits Times industrial index gained 2.96 to a new post-crash high of 1,244.27.

BOMBAY — Market closed for religious festival.

FRANKFURT — Shares edged lower in moderate trading. Dealers, disheartened by fading prospects for abolition of the withholding tax, squared positions before a spate of U.S. economic data due later Friday. The DAX index fell 3.73 to 1,384.03.

ZURICH — Prices recovered from a weak opening to close mixed with a slightly lower bias. The all-share index fell 0.7 to 1,027.9.

PARIS — Prices regained ground on U.S. economic data, with the 50-share indicator recovering to show a 0.34 per cent gain within 15 minutes of the news.

LONDON — Shares were firm in late trading after a string of economic data from both sides of the Atlantic matched or was better than expectations. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was at a day's peak, up 16.8 points at 2,045.5.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed broad and sharp gains in morning trading, after news of a smaller than expected rise in March producer prices and a lower than forecast February U.S. trade gap. The Dow was up 21 at 2,317.

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BODY ROCK
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Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema PLAZA Tel: 677420

OUTRAGEOUS

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Old slugger Robinson finally goes down

NEW YORK (AP) — Sugar Ray Robinson was a fighter from his dancing feet, to his flashing fists, to his psyche.

Jimmy Doyle died at dawn after being knocked out in the eighth round in a bid to win the welterweight title from Robinson at Cleveland in 1947.

An inquest was held and the coroner asked, "Mr. Robinson, were you trying to hurt him?"

Robinson replied, "It's my business to get him in trouble."

Two months later, Robinson fought Flash Sebastian in a non-title bout in New York.

In the first round, Sebastian rattled Robinson with a left hook to the head.

"Ray came right back with a left hook and knocked him colder than a mackerel," Teddy Brenner, a longtime matchmaker, recalled Wednesday.

"They had to take him out on a stretcher."

Ray Robinson got countless opponents in trouble and made countless others look foolish.

He was the Sugar man, flashy both in and out of the ring —

tabbed the "best fighter pound-for-pound in the world" before he retired in 1965 at age 44, a quarter century after his first pro fight.

Robinson died Wednesday, at age 67, his claim as being the best ever — always an arguable claim — still legitimate.

Robinson won the welterweight championship and held it until he won the middleweight title for the first five times by stopping Jake Lamotta in the 13th round in 1951.

His record was 175-19-6, with 110 knockouts.

"I don't know anybody better at his craft than he was," said Archie Moore, the former light heavyweight champion, a craftsman, whose career was even longer than Robinson's.

"He was a stylist. He never copied anything off anybody. Generations of fighters have copied his style, including Muhammad Ali."

"He was hard to fight," said Gene Fullmer, who was an archrival of Robinson's. "He was fast, quick and smart."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Graf, Navratilova, Sabatini advance

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (AP) — Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova and Gabriela Sabatini all scored straight-set victories Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the Bausch and Lomb championships. The top-ranked Graf needed only 41 minutes to beat Laura Lapi 6-1, 6-0. Second-seeded Navratilova cruised past Linda Ferrando 6-1, 6-1 in 33 minutes. No. 3 Sabatini's serve was particularly sharp as she beat Jana Fospisilova 6-3, 6-3.

Argentines retain top junior singles spots

LONDON (AP) — Argentine teen-agers Fernando Meligeni and Federico Hummeller retained the top spots in boys' and girls' singles in the International Tennis Federation World Junior rankings released Friday. After 34 tournaments, the top 10 rankings in singles and doubles remained unchanged, with Meligeni holding a 165-point lead over Aki Rahunen of Finland on the boys' singles Hummeller leading the girls' singles by 85 points over another Argentine, Florencia Labat. Hummeller also topped the girls' doubles rankings, 105 points ahead of Ecuador's Nuria Niemes. In boys' doubles, Oliver Fernandez of Mexico was in first place with Patricio Arnold of Argentina second, 80 points behind.

S. Korea to attend talks as scheduled

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean officials will attend a sports meeting with North Korea next week, despite controversy over the arrest of a dissident leader who made an unauthorized visit to the communist north, a government official said Friday.

"We will attend the April 18 meeting as scheduled," National Unification Minister Lee Hong-Koo said after a meeting of senior government officials. The meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon, reviewed capitalist South Korea's policy toward the North following Moon Hwan's secret trip to its capital, Pyongyang, for talks on national unification.

Beenhakker to step down as Real Madrid coach

MADRID (R) — Spanish league leaders Real Madrid are replacing their Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker next season. Club President Ramon Mendoza told state radio Thursday the club would have a new trainer from next season but did not say who it would be. Beenhakker's contract expires at the end of June. Arie Van Eijden, director of top Dutch club Ajax Amsterdam, said earlier Thursday Beenhakker was the club's first choice as trainer for the 1989-90 season and Spanish radio said Ajax had already made him an offer.

Wilander tops list for Italian Open

ROME (R) — U.S. Open champion Mats Wilander of Sweden will head five of the world's top 10 men's tennis players at next month's Italian Open but Ivan Lendl, the number one, is staying away. Grand Slam champion Steffi Graf, the top-ranked woman, will also be absent, organizers said Friday. Wilander, world number two and the 1987 Italian Open champion, crashed out in the third round last year, while Lendl won a stormy final against Argentine Guillermo Perez-Roldan. Organizers said Americans John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, back after a 15-year absence, were also contesting the May 15-21 open as well as Andre Agassi of the United States and Kent Carlsson of Sweden.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Richter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: In decision, doubt and skepticism come together today. This is the best time to stick to basics. Weekend shopping may not go well, and things purchased today may be returned for one reason or another.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Your quick and restless nature may prefer to break routine. You may seek ways to escape certain feelings.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): The day is stimulating and earthy. You can use the practical side of your nature to increase capital. News comes from a distant source.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You and your mate make a heavy combination when both of you want to dominate. This approach may get you results.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Eit the road, but keep distance and activities reasonable. Do something interesting with an adventurous companion.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Discussions occur over a possible change of residence. Siblings ask for mature help. Control pleasure spending. Your vitality is high.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Your sincerity has paid off. You make a good impression on someone who will be of benefit in the future. Protect against social isolation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A burst of energy sends you in many directions. You mix with others and take an interest in home affairs, entertaining and siblings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be specific about what you want. Avoid activities that you do not enjoy. Make a commitment to follow a more nutritious diet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Put your creative ideas to use. Control your temper, which can be short and snappy, when you are asked name questions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Eliminate counter-productive activities that take away your energy. Early emotional issues evaporate later. Take a short trip.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Don't have high expectations today. Plans can fall out of place faster than you can put them together.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Things may get done in a roundabout way today. Someone is not giving you all the facts. Protect your own interests.

THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray

ACROSS

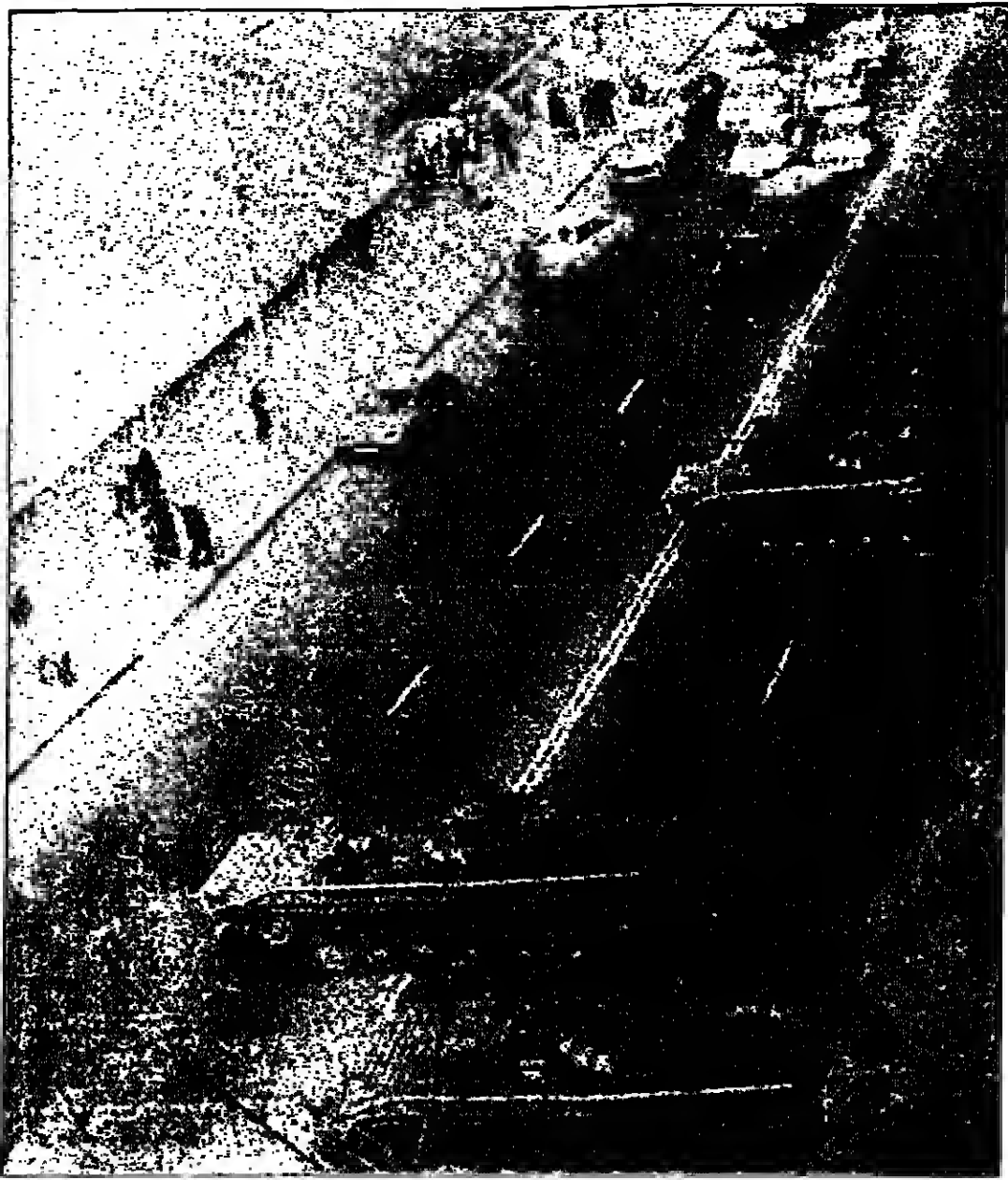
- 1 Bandwidth
- 5 Sri Lanka
- 11 Fore and
- 14 Lend
- 15 Refugee of a sort
- 16 Dune
- 17 Certain focal point
- 20 One who certifies
- 21 Underworld
- 22 Diamond team
- 23 Most unruffled
- 25 Fountain tract
- 26 Part
- 29 Sword
- 30 Badgers
- 31 Article
- 34 Neutral position
- 36 Those elected
- 38 Windy saild
- 40 Crucifix placed
- 41 Embassies
- 42 Flower type
- 44 Floor covers
- 45 Adorned one
- 46 Ray window
- 48 Momentous
- 53 Deserted spot
- 57 "I like"
- 58 Women's gird
- 59 Gravelly ridges
- 59 Silkroom
- 60 Brew the air
- 61 Endearing term
- 62 Sign of sorrow

DOWN

- 1 A tray
- 2 The
- 3 Freeway part
- 4 Flanerie
- 5 Calm
- 6 Con
- 7 Morocco
- 8 Opalet item
- 9 Slip up
- 10 Small fish
- 11 Await
- 12 Goddesses of destiny
- 13 Clandestine meeting
- 14 A Kazan
- 15 Glen
- 16 JOUs
- 17 Attestation
- 18 Hilt pret.
- 19 (unresolved)
- 20 Horn and beauty
- 21 Vanish
- 22 True truths
- 23 Musical quality
- 24 Injury
- 25 Singer
- 26 Adams
- 27 Like jackets
- 28 Vase
- 29 Egress
- 30 Rebound
- 31 Starfield
- 32 Rest
- 33 In single file
- 34 Pause indicator
- 35 "Tempest"
- 36 Sprites
- 37 Crest
- 38 Metase
- 39 Present
- 40 Solo
- 41 Limerick man
- 42 Native: suff.
- 43 Russ: river
- 44 de-lance

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. PAPER 2. MIND 3. RISK 4. SANTA 5. DADA 6. ARKLE 7. HINDS 8. BIAS 9. VIBES 10. STAGNANT 11. DEBIT 12. NOT 13. GRAY 14. STAY 15. DUE 16. DODD 17. OUTRAGED 18. ALLO 19. GAA 20. FIBRE 21. PULL 22. TIT 23. TIT 24. TIT 25. TIT 26. TIT 27. TIT 28. TIT 29. TIT 30. TIT 31. TIT 32. TIT 33. TIT 34. TIT 35. TIT 36. TIT 37. TIT 38. TIT 39. TIT 40. TIT 41. TIT 42. TIT 43. TIT 44. TIT 45. TIT 46. TIT 47. TIT 48. TIT 49. TIT 50. TIT 51. TIT 52. TIT 53. TIT 54. TIT 55. TIT 56. TIT 57. TIT 58. TIT 59. TIT 60. TIT 61. TIT 62. TIT 63. TIT 64. TIT 65. TIT 66. TIT 67. TIT 68. TIT 69. TIT 70. TIT 71. TIT 72. TIT 73. TIT 74. TIT 75. TIT 76. TIT 77. TIT 78. TIT 79. TIT 80. TIT 81. TIT 82. TIT 83. TIT 84. TIT 85. TIT 86. TIT 87. TIT 88. TIT 89. TIT 90. TIT 91. TIT 92. TIT 93. TIT 94. TIT 95. TIT 96. TIT 97. TIT 98. TIT 99. TIT 100. TIT 101. TIT 102. TIT 103. TIT 104. TIT 105. TIT 106. TIT 107. TIT 108. TIT 109. TIT 110. TIT 111. TIT 112. TIT 113. TIT 114. TIT 115. TIT 116. TIT 117. TIT 118. TIT 119. 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Tension high in the streets of Tbilisi as armoured vehicles block a city street.

Georgian leaders quit

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Georgian Communist Party leader Dzumber Patiashvili resigned Friday after nationalist demonstrations in which 19 people died, and the Soviet republic's prime minister and president said they too wanted to step down.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Patiashvili's resignation was accepted unanimously at a meeting of the Georgian Communist Party's policy-making central committee.

Givi Gumbaridze, who has headed the republic's KGB state security police for the last two months, was nominated as Patiashvili's successor but had not yet been formally elected, Gerasimov told a news conference.

The central committee also accepted the resignations of two other members of Georgia's ruling politburo. They were the republic's prime minister and president, who lost their party posts but not their government positions.

Gerasimov said Georgian Prime Minister Zurab Chkheidze and President Otari Cherkedia asked to be relieved of their government posts, but stressed that a formal decision must be taken by the Georgian Supreme Soviet, the republic's parliament.

"People understand that this is a dagger in the back of perestroika (restructuring)," Gerasimov said of Sunday's clashes between troops and nationalist demonstrators in the capital, Tbilisi.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, a former Georgian party leader, who postponed planned trips to East and West Germany this week to try to soothe passions in his home republic.

Local journalists said Georgy Razumovski, a junior member of the ruling Soviet politburo and the party's personnel chief, was also at the session.

Gerasimov did not give a reason for the shakeup or say exactly what was discussed, but he had said earlier the leadership accepted responsibility for ordering troops to clear demonstrators from a square in Tbilisi Sunday. At least 19 people were killed in the melee.

Signs posted at Tbilisi State University after the clash called

Patiashvili a "killer."

Authorities are investigating accusations that troops used sharpened shovels against the 8,000-strong crowd, who were staging an all-night demonstration outside the government and party buildings, chanting nationalist slogans.

Gerasimov said criticism of Colonel-General Igor Radionov, the region's military commander, had been growing in the city over his handling of the demonstration.

Tbilisi remained tense Friday with troops patrolling the streets, and the city's main squares cordoned off by tanks and armoured personnel carriers to prevent mass gatherings, local journalists said.

On Thursday, Georgia's politburo described the situation in the republic as "strained," with universities and schools still shut by boycotts. The official news agency TASS said factories and public transport were operating normally.

Other officials said some businesses were not operating at normal levels because of a strike that began a week ago in Tbilisi, a city of 1.2 million people 1,450 kilometres south of Moscow.

Leda Archvadze, the sister-in-law of arrested Georgian human rights activist Zviad Gamsakhurdia, said that outside government house, site of Sunday's confrontation, a spontaneous memorial has appeared.

"There are mountains of flowers. Every day people place fresh flowers," she said in a telephone interview Friday.

An estimated 2,000 people marched through the streets Thursday for the first funeral for one of the victims, psychiatrist Zia Djinjaradze, 42, according to human rights activists.

No funerals were scheduled Friday, but ceremonies were planned Saturday and Sunday, said Archvadze.

Gerasimov told a news briefing Thursday in Moscow that a commission was investigating whether soldiers who broke up Sunday's protest had shot metal shovels customarily used for digging trenches.

"The troops were not supposed to have those shovels," Gerasimov said.

If an investigation finds soldiers beat the protesters with shovels, "there is a question of whether these people should be punished or not," he said.

Wright's case unique in U.S. political history

WASHINGTON (R) — Silver-haired Texan Jim Wright, the U.S. speaker of the House of Representatives facing impending accusations about personal finances and possible conflicts of interest, is one step from humiliating ignominy.

None of his 47 predecessors in 200 years, all elected by members of the House along party lines, was ever voted out of Congress, officially reprimanded, or had charges brought that were so serious as to force resignation.

The 66-year-old Democratic leader vigorously told a news conference Thursday he had not knowingly done anything wrong. But a House Ethics Committee is expected Monday to decide his business dealings violated House rules.

Early in this century powerful Republican speaker Joe Cannon came close to being fired over his dictatorial rule.

Even so, the Wright case is unique, Senate historian Don Ritchie told Reuters. "There's nothing to me that looks like what is going on now."

The ethics committee, officially called the House Committee on Standards of Conduct, that has

investigated Wright is a relatively new creature, only 22 years old, and has recommended a reprimand or expulsion for some past members of the House.

Wright's case focuses on claims he accepted improper gifts from a businessman in his Fort Worth congressional district who had interests in legislation, and that he promoted bulk sales to interest groups of his autobiography in order to circumvent limits on outside income.

Last year, the House was set to debate and vote on an ethics committee recommendation that New York Congressman Mario Biaggi, a Democrat convicted on racketeering charges, be expelled from the House. But the congressman quit Congress first, and is now serving a prison term.

Among recent speakers, former speaker Thomas O'Neill — Wright's immediate predecessor — was investigated in the so-called "Koreagate," involving alleged bribery by a Korean rice lobbyist. O'Neill was cleared by the committee.

Other speakers — who stand only behind the vice-president in succession to the president — have had many problems.



Lech Walesa

Walesa undecided over poll candidacy

WARSAW (Agencies) — Lech Walesa aims to become Poland's state president in six years time but has not decided whether to stand in elections this June which will see his Solidarity union enter parliament for the first time.

Poland's communist rulers said Thursday that two rounds of voting to the 460-member lower house Sejm and the new 100-seat upper house senate would take place June 4 and 18.

Walesa said Solidarity, which applied for legal registration Thursday after a seven-year ban, would attempt to win as many seats as possible under a deal allowing free elections to the senate and giving the opposition 35 per cent of the Sejm.

"The elections will answer the question of who is right in Poland," he told a news conference in the Baltic port of Gdansk, where the Solidarity union was created after strikes in 1980. "Let the better and the new win."

But Walesa, who confirmed he would run in the 1990s for the new post of state president, was undecided about his own immediate plans.

"I plan to be a candidate for the presidency in six years time. People want to force me to be a candidate for the senate and the Sejm but I have not made up my mind yet," he told Reuters by telephone from Gdansk.

"I am a man of big interests," said Walesa, an electrician who won the Nobel Peace Prize for founding the East bloc's first independent trade union.

Any citizen can be nominated for president by one-fourth of the Sejm and the senate. The president will be jointly elected by the Sejm and the senate.

The first six-year term is widely expected to go to communist party leader Wojciech Jaruzelski due to the majority still guaranteed to the Communist Party and its allies in the larger Sejm.

Walesa, who has indicated a preference for concentrating on union matters, did not say who was pressuring him to seek office. But there have been suggestions he should run to set an example for other opposition members who might be reluctant to replace election boycotts with participation in the communist-dominated government.

Abe admits his wife received Recruit payoffs

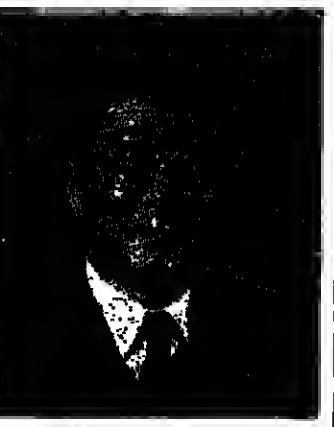
TOKYO (R) — In another revelation in Japan's festering political scandal, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe admitted Friday that his wife had received monthly donations from the Recruit company for three years.

Abe's remarks followed a report in the Japanese newspaper Mainichi Shimbun that Mrs. Abe had received about 9.3 million yen (\$70,000) between 1985 and 1988.

"Neither my wife nor I knew about this and I have left all my financial matters to my secretaries. After investigation, we found this was true and I regret my lack of knowledge," Abe told a news conference.

Abe indicated he was ready to speak on this and other contributions from the Recruit group at a special parliamentary hearing. He currently serves in the powerful post of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's secretary-general.

"To straighten political morale, I must speak out on how



Shintaro Abe

this money was received and what it was spent on," Abe said.

The scandal, involving payments of about 500 million yen (\$3.8 million) to politicians and officials by the Recruit Publishing and Telecommunications Group, has sent the ruling party's popularity skidding downwards.

Three cabinet ministers have resigned and 13 people have so far been arrested in connection with the case, postwar Japan's biggest political scandal.

After Abe's comments were reported, the opposition parties renewed their demands for Takeshita's resignation and elections.

"Mr. Abe was reported to be in very close relations with Recruit," Shun Oide, chairman of the Japan Socialist Party's Diet Committee said. "This is part of it."

Trincomalee tense after bomb blast

COLOMBO (AP) — Relatives identified bodies and arranged funerals Friday for the 42 people killed in a car bombing in the port city of Trincomalee, officials said.

Indian peacekeeping troops patrolling the city reported no new violence, but a curfew was in force.

At least seven of the 57 people injured in Thursday's blast were critically injured, said Nalin Seneviratna, head of the provincial council in northeastern Sri Lanka.

Seneviratna, a former army commander, said the Morris Minor car that exploded outside a hotel and shopping arcade was packed with 50 kilograms of explosives that were hidden under a pile of coconuts in the car.

Seneviratna said all but two of those killed were Sinhalese who were shopping for gifts and sweets to mark their New Year which was celebrated Thursday.

The others were members of the Tamil minority, which observed new year's, on Friday.

Shortly after the explosion, angry Sinhalese attacked Tamils. At least four Tamils were stabbed to death and seven others were injured, Seneviratna, a Sinhalese, said.

Sri Lankan military officials

blamed a group of Tamil extremists, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, for the blast, while Indian officials blamed the largest Tamil rebel militia, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

A spokesman for the Tigers in Colombo denied responsibility for the explosion.

The bombing was linked to the killing of six Tamil villagers last Tuesday in remote Kurinchiakerni village in Trincomalee district, about 225 kilometres northeast of the capital Colombo, military officials said.

The villagers included three children and a woman who were hacked to death by unidentified assailants, officials said.

Indian peacekeeping troops have been deployed in northern and eastern Sri Lanka since July 1987 to disarm Tamil rebels and enforce a peace accord aimed at ending the Tamil insurgency that began in 1983.

At least 12,500 people, mostly Sinhalese, have been killed in the Tamil insurrection and in a violent backlash from Sinhalese extremists opposed to the peace accord.

Sinhalese militants of the People's Liberation Front claimed the accord gave too many concessions to the Tamil minority.

Seoul arrests dissident leader

SEOUL (Agencies) — Intelligence agents arrested a dissident leader aboard a plane Thursday as he returned after reunification talks in North Korea, and police rounded up some 800 people who protested the arrest.

About 20 officials of the Agency for National Security Planning, South Korea's main intelligence agency, boarded the Northwest Airlines flight from Tokyo and arrested the Reverend Moon Ik-Hwan on charges of violating national security laws. Moon's companion, Yoo Won-Ho, was also arrested.

Moon was led down a stairway to the tarmac after agents pounded on one of the plane's doors, demanding that it be opened. The 71-year-old dissident was quickly driven away in a black car as intelligence agents ringed the area.

Moon created a major political controversy in the South by making a secret visit to North Korea last month to meet with leader Kim Il Sung to discuss ways to reunite the divided Korean Peninsula. The government ordered a major crackdown on dissidents and the visit threatened

to stall peace talks between the two Koreas.

Thousands of students staged violent protests in at least five cities in support of Moon and clashed with riot police when they were blocked from marching off campuses. Police said they had no figures on how many students took part, but Korean press reports said about 10,000 students protested at 23 colleges nationwide.

Police detained about 700 students who tried to get to Yonsei University in Seoul for a rally to welcome Moon, police said. An

additional 50 students were arrested when about 1,000 protesters marched out of the campus peacefully and police armoured vans fired tear gas.

Students at four other colleges in Seoul hurled firebombs and rocks at police, who fired tear gas and hurled rocks back in clashes around the campuses. About 3,000 students clashed with police in the southern port of Pusan, some 2,000 students fought police in Kwangju in the south and violent clashes also were reported in Taegu and Chunchon.

Hunt on for cult 'godfather, witch'

MATAMOROS, Mexico (AP) — Authorities investigating a drug-smuggling cult blamed for ritual slayings of at least 13 people are extending the search for the gang's mastermind into the United States.

The 13th body was found Friday at a ranch used by the cult that allegedly committed human sacrifices to make its members invulnerable. The body, a man in his 30s, had been buried about four months ago.

U.S. and Mexican authorities were searching for Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo, a Cuban who

police said orchestrated the ritual slayings on a remote ranch outside of this Mexican border town.

Constanzo is believed to have fled into the United States with Matamoros resident Sara Maria Aldrete, a 24-year-old, brunette described by Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox as the "witch of the operation."

A wanted poster issued by the Cameron County Sheriff's Department in Texas described her as "extremely dangerous. Use caution."

Among the group's victims ex-hummed Tuesday were a Mexican

policeman, a federal police volunteer, a 16-year-old boy and a 21-year-old University of Texas premedical student who disappeared March 14 in Matamoros while on spring break.

Constanzo was exposed to secretive Afro-Caribbean religions that ritually slaughter animals and rely on magic.

But a Santeria priest and others familiar with the practices of Santeria, voodoo and other obscure religions likened the Mexican drug-smuggling cult more to the mass suicide in Jonestown led by Jim Jones.

On Nov. 18, 1978, 913 people died after the Reverend Jim Jones convinced members of his Peoples Temple cult to drink a cyanide-laced soft drink in the community he had set up in a Guyana jungle.

Suspects in the slayings have said they killed at the demand of Constanzo, whom they called "godfather."

"He had some sort of exposure to Santeria. I wouldn't deny that, but I wouldn't say he's a Santeria priest," said Willie Ramos of Miami, a Santeria high priest.

'Iranian Nights' set to go on London stage

LONDON (AP) — A new play inspired by the controversy over Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses" opens in London next week to counter what one of its two authors, himself Muslim-born, refers to as a "climate of fear."

"Iranian Nights" begins a 10-day run April 19 at the Royal Court Theatre. It was written by Howard Brenton, the left-wing English playwright, and Tariq Ali, an Oxford-educated Pakistani who, like Rushdie, was born a Muslim.

Ali said the three-character play, inspired by the "Arabian Nights" stories, aims to promote a fuller, more "educative" vision of Islam than the image conveyed by Islamic fundamentalism.

It was written as a direct response to the plight of Rushdie, a naturalised British citizen born in India. His novel, "The Satanic Verses," has been widely condemned as blasphemous, and it provoked a death threat against the author.

"My feeling is that if the play goes as successfully as I hope it will, it will enable people to lose some of their fear," said Ali, who believes reasoned discussion is still possible among Muslims despite the extremist actions advocated by Khomeini and his followers.

Describing himself as "a lapsed Muslim," Ali said: "The aim of the play is to open up debate, clear the air, move forward with ease" in examining the many

facets of Islam.

"Iranian Nights" marks the playwrighting debut of Ali, 45, a writer, broadcaster, and political analyst who emigrated to Britain from Lahore, Pakistan, in 1963. Brenton, 46, co-wrote with David Hare the 1985 hit satire "Pravda." His other plays include "The Romans in Britain," "The Churchill Play," and last year's "Greenland."

Their play will run for 10 performances prior to the theatre's main production, Caryl Churchill's "Topdog."

But its debut follows some concern over subject matter that led to the resignation prior to rehearsals of two of its three actors, a change of title, and exhaustive board meetings at a theatre that is

no stranger to controversy.

Roshan Seth and Art Malik, known in the United States from their performances in "My Beautiful Laundrette" and "The Jewel in the Crown," respectively, pulled out of the production due to what theatre publicists said were scheduling conflicts.

But Ali said the actors had succumbed to pressure. Neither performer could be reached for comment. The three roles are being played by Nabil Shahan, Paul Bhattacharjee, and Fiona Victor.

Ali said the title provoked "a slight dispute with the theatre management," who requested that its original name, "A Muslim's Night Out," be changed so it did not give offence.

COLUMN

Mickey Mouse filming at the U.N.

UNITED NATIONS — "Can you confirm that Mickey Mouse was in the U.N. building yesterday around 5 p.m.?" asked an astonished correspondent at Tuesday's U.N. news briefing. "Several people did not believe me when I said this," the non-plussed correspondent added, amid laughter. "Yes," confirmed the spokesman, not known for his levity. "We personally saw Mickey Mouse from our office." He explained that Walt Disney Educational Products is shooting a film all week, for worldwide distribution, explaining the work of the United Nations and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to schoolchildren. One of the highlights was to be a scene expected to be filmed Wednesday in the General Assembly hall, with Mickey accompanied by a group of children and U.N. guides all in national dress.

Frog with a difference

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — A University of Malaya zoology team has claimed it found a rare type of frog that grows straight from an egg instead of going through the tadpole stage in water. Zoology professor Yong Hoi Sen said he and a research team discovered a tree frog, *Philautus aurifasciatus*, that can breed on land or trees without water. He said this is the first time such a frog has been found in Malaysia. Most frogs lay eggs in water and tadpoles come out of them, grow in the water, and hop out when they become adults. But the frog just discovered lays its eggs on land. The frog then grows inside the egg and an adult frog crawls out, Yong explained in a statement. The group made the discovery on a jungle expedition in the Genting Highlands area, about 30 kilometres east of Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 14. The eggs were found on a dry plant, he said. The eggs collected by the team were ball-shaped and about 12 millimetres in diameter. The frogs that emerged were eight millimetres long and the adults grew to 20 to 37 millimetres, Yong said. Yong said news of the discovery was withheld to carry out breeding and tests.

Blue haze engulfs U of M

AN ARBOR, Michigan (AP) — A blue cold of marijuana smoke drifted over the University of Michigan (U of M) campus Saturday from about 1,000 high school and college students at the 19th annual hash bash rally for the legalisation of the drug. Nobody was arrested, but 15 people got tickets for possession of marijuana, also known by the slang term hash. Possession of marijuana is a misdemeanor offence carrying a \$5 fine, said Ann Arbor police Captain Gary Kistka. Many of those assembled huffed and puffed on homemade smokes as speakers told the crowd that marijuana should be legalised. Behind the speaker stretched a banner with golden arches similar to the trademark of the fast-food restaurant McDonald's, with a legend that mimicked the restaurant chain's motto: "Marijuana. Over 10 million stoned." "There are a lot of people you wouldn't expect to see here," said Brad Wylie, 19, a freshman from Livonia who said he doesn't smoke marijuana. "I saw some in business suits and many are clean cut. It makes you realise (marijuana) is more widespread." This year, youngsters from suburban high schools drove to the university's campus to light up in what has become an April fools' day tradition, Kistka said. The crowd cheered when members of the National Organisation for the Reform of Marijuana Laws said legalising marijuana would make the drug more affordable.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN	MAX	W
AMSTERDAM	07 45	09 48	Rain
ATHENS	10 50	19 66	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	21 70	32 80	Clear
BANGKOK	28 79	34 83	Clear
BEIJING	20 68	32 80	Clear
CHICAGO	03 37	14 57	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	08 48	20 66	Clear
FRANKFURT	08 48	12 54	Rain
GENEVA	03 37	06 43	Cloudy
HONG KONG	21 70	23 73	Cloudy
PARIS	12 54	21 70	Rain
STANBUL	10 50	17 53	Rain
LONDON	07 45	15 59	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	14 59	24 76	Clear
MADRID	04 30	14 57	Clear
MEXICO	23 78	36 100	Cloudy
MOSCOW	01 38	08 43	Rain
MONTREAL	07 45	15 59	Clear
NEW DELHI	18 54	35 85	Clear
NEW YORK	08 48	17 63	Clear
OSAKA	07 45	13 53	Cloudy
ROME	12 54	21 70	Rain
TOKYO	11 52	23 73	Cloudy
VIENNA	10 50	20 66	Clear

سكوتيا